A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

At STEM K-8 we are in high gear, with teachers and classrooms working on overdrive to pack learning in before winter break. Last week classrooms visited the Mercer Slough, Zoo, and Children’s Theatre. Next week we have students headed to the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, Microsoft, and Bainbridge Island. Girl’s basketball tryouts were last week, and boy’s tryouts are Tuesday, December 10. Make sure athletic registrations and updated physicals are turned into Ms. Noble or the office. Middle school girls will practice on Monday and Thursday afternoons, boys on Tuesdays and Fridays. Practices are from 3:40-5:00pm. STEM’s Amelia’s Aerospace and Robotic’s teams had their first competitions last week.

Thanks to volunteers and attendees for our first Multicultural Literacy night last Thursday, December 5. There were storytellers and stories in a variety of languages, and Ms. Paulson’s middle school poets were compelling, passionate, and articulate in their readings.

Don’t overlook an immunization notification if you received one. Under new WA State guidelines, on January 8 students not compliant with immunization requirements will be excluded from school. The main culprit for missing vaccinations is the Tdap, required for 6th grade entry. Some children (like my daughter!) who had chicken pox or varicella as a child need to have it noted on their immunization record.

Make a plan for your child to get any necessary vaccination updates and provide the school nurse with your updated records as soon as possible. Your child must be fully vaccinated, in process of getting vaccinated, or have a lab report recording immunity. If you choose not to have your child vaccinated due to a religious, personal or medical reason, you must turn in a Certificate of Exemption form that is signed by you and a health care provider. For more information, click on student_vaccination_requirements or contact school nurse M.C. Nachtigal at 206-252-8457 or mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org.

I’ve also included the STEM Holiday Policy in this week’s Owl Post (next page). It’s meant to serve as a guide for staff and families as they consider how holiday activities are incorporated into the life of our school. Critically thinking about teaching and celebrating holidays helps us more effectively meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. The goal of the STEM Holiday Policy is to support inclusivity and validate students’ home cultures.

Sincerely,

Ben Ostrom, Principal
STEM K-8
Subject: STEM K-8 Holiday Policy

Why we teach and think critically about holidays at STEM K-8
- To make all children feel accepted and to validate the cultures and experiences of their homes
- To teach about time and cycles of life
- To teach diversity and tolerance by learning about other cultures, traditions and religions
- To teach the virtues associated with particular holidays- peace, friendship, love, etc.
- To create a sense of family or community within classrooms and within our school
- To have fun

Guidelines for Holiday Activities and Celebrations at STEM K-8
- To promote the academic environment of the school and decrease disruptions and emphasis on sweets, Louisa Boren STEM K-8 has instituted a "treat-free" practice for birthdays. If you would like to send something to school with your child to commemorate their birthday, please donate your child's favorite book to the classroom in lieu of food items.
- In a similar vein, STEM K-8 is “Treat free” for Halloween, Valentines Day, or other celebrations that may occur.
- We are inclusive and strive to validate all of our students. We pay attention to the balance and the importance we put on particular cultures.
- In addition to not over-focusing on particular cultures, we do not over-focus on a particular holiday within one culture. In this way, we are not defining an entire culture or faith through one holiday.
- We are careful to avoid stereotypes when presenting holiday information, putting up decorations and implementing activities.
- We do not teach the religious aspect of only one holiday. We can explain religious aspects of multiple holidays in a matter-of-fact simple manner.
- We involve families as much as possible and as is age-appropriate in the implementation of holiday activities. We will keep families informed of upcoming holiday activities and events. For students whose home culture prohibits a particular celebration or recognition, we will find alternative activities that promote their inclusion in the classroom.
- There are no hard and fast rules about the time that should be spent because the amount of time will vary according to the age, interests and needs of the children.
- As we decide on holidays to teach about, we think about our students and teachers
reflect on holidays that have importance to them as individuals. For example, if a teacher has a passion for American history, her class can only benefit from experiencing that passion around Patriots Day. Teachers may also want to consider including holidays that are important to our larger community and city. Teachers are encouraged to discuss with their grade-level partner the list of holidays they are considering.

The policy above is meant to serve as a guide for staff and families as they consider how holiday activities are incorporated into the life of our school. It is our hope that by critically thinking about teaching and celebrating holidays we will more effectively meet the needs of our increasingly diverse student population regarding cultural holiday practices that have so much meaning for children.

This policy was developed through reviewing other school policies throughout the country and in conjunction with careful thought about the needs of the STEM K-8 community (staff, students, families).

Some of the language and format was borrowed from a K-8 school in Boston, which reflected some work from the book *Celebrate! An Anti-Bias Guide to Enjoying Holidays* by Julie Bisson.

This is an evolving document open to feedback and suggestions from the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 community.
LOUISA BOREN STEM K-8

GIFT CARDS FOR STEM FAMILIES

Donations of gift cards in any amount to any store can be donated.

Support our community who need the most support this season with gift cards for groceries over the breaks & gifts for their families.

Bring cards to STEM & hand to Robin Graham, Brynn Chadwick, Alicia Every or Colleen Peterson or ask office staff to leave in Robin's PTA box.
We are collecting them for Danielle, STEM school counselor for her to distribute to families who participate in the emergency backpack program and need this support the most.

All community are welcome to participate.
Contact robingraham26@gmail.com with questions.

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)
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend STEM’s 1st Annual Multicultural Literacy Night! We enjoyed a performance by Red Eagle Soaring, slam poetry by Ms. Paulson’s middle schoolers, and lots of other fun activities. We’re looking forward to making next year’s event even better!
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.
Fred Meyer Rewards is up and running! Please use code: AU705

Go to this website, search for the school and enter our code:
https://www.fredmeyer.com/account/communityrewards/

Dear Louisa Boren STEM PTA 6.15.183,

Congratulations on your enrollment into the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. Your participants may begin enrolling upon receipt of this email.

You have been assigned a new NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number AU705. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.

To Use the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program:
Simply encourage your participants to visit https://www.fredmeyer.com. Once logged into their Fred Meyer account, they can search for Louisa Boren STEM PTA 6.15.183 either by name or AU705 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

*Customers must have a registered Fred Meyer rewards card account to link to your organization.
*If a member does not yet have a Fred Meyer rewards card, please let them know they are available at the customer service desk at any Fred Meyer

REMEMBER: Purchases will not count for your organization until after your participants register their rewards card. Participants must swipe their registered Fred Meyer rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Fred Meyer rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thank you!
Fred Meyer Community Rewards Department
Dine Out Event coming up to Support STEM 5th and 8th Grade Camps:

MOD

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

5th & 8th Grade Families!

Your owls are headed 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 any way join us!

Contact robingraham26@gmail.com to get added to the communications.
We need a JV Girls Basketball Coach!

STEM is still looking for a JV girls basketball coach to assist Head Coach Jay Massimino. Practices are on Monday and Thursday from 3:40-5:00pm, and games are on Saturday. If you’ve got basketball coaching skills, or know someone who does and wants to make a difference in the life of some amazing girls, please contact Kim Noble at kfnoble@seattleschools.org.

STEM K-8 is adding hourly employees!

STEM K-8 is looking for hourly support employees. Are you interested in getting involved in your child’s school and working part time on a daily basis? STEM K-8 needs substitutes for lunch supervision and also hourly tutoring and classroom support. If you’re interested contact Cindy Baca in the main office at 206-252-8450.
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](https://arcg.is/0m00CS)
Attention 8th Graders & Families! The following few pages has information on upcoming High School Open House Events!

January 23, 2020 | Open house events coming up at Nova High School
(See flyer and details below)

INFORMATION SESSION / PRESENTATION
NOVA HIGH SCHOOL | 2410 E. Cherry Street (just north of Garfield HS)
Thursday December 12th
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
(Arrival any time after 4pm works! Parking Lot entrance is off of Columbia St. – 1 block N or Cherry St.)

Please come visit us!! We would like to share more information about our Competency Based Program!
Students will be available to talk with you about their experience choosing a high school; why some students started at a Traditional High School, then realized Nova was a better fit for them! Other students want to share how they came directly to Nova from Middle School for a myriad of reasons. Teachers will also be here to answer questions and clarify more about how our program works for various student needs. We want to insure all counselors have the best information about our program to assist in leading students to success in high school (and beyond) at whatever program best fits their needs.

If you are not able to make it here on that day, we do have other options:
- Request A Nova Brochure
- Sign up for a Nova Tour (Specific Tuesdays Only, 12:30-1:30 pm)
- Attend Nova’s OPEN HOUSE -- January 23, 2020 6:00-7:30 pm (see flyer below)
- Reply to this email with any/all questions you may have

We hope you can attend! An RSVP is appreciated if possible!

Thank you!

Karen Podbela
Administrative Secretary
Nova High School
Alternative Public School
206-252-3500 p
206-252-3501 f
2019-2020 High School Tours and Open House Dates

Ballard High School

- Tentative Tour Dates: February 6th and 11th
- Tentative 8th grade Choices Night: January 28th

Center School

- Open House: January 23rd & February 13th

*Shadow opportunities available on Wednesdays, arranged through: blcasey@seattleschools.org*

Cleveland High School

- Open houses
  
  Friday, January 17th at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
  Saturday, February 1st at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
  Friday, February 7th at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Garfield High School

- 8th Grade Tour: January 16th, 9:00-11:00 am (adults must accompany students)
- Incoming 9th Grade Evening Event: January 16th 5-8pm (dinner will be provided)
- Welcome to GHS Event for Incoming Students and Families: April 8th 5-7pm
- Registration Help Session: April 22nd and 29th 3-5pm

Nathan Hale

- School Tour Future Family Night: December 10th & February 10th, 6:00-8:30pm

Ingraham

- Shadow Visits: December 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th; January 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th & February 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th from 8:55-1pm *Reservations Required
- Open House for Incoming Families: January 14th @ 7pm
- IB Info Night: January 15th @ 7pm
- Tour: January 16th from 9-11am (parents must accompany students)

Lincoln High School

- New Student Open House: January 16th from 7-8:30pm

Roosevelt High School

- Open House: February 6th from 7-8pm

South Lake High School

- Nothing listed on website

Chief Sealth High School

- Open House: December 12th (see flyer on next page)

West Seattle (see above for 8th Grade parent night info)

- Day Tours- January 16th from 9-11 am
A Special Invitation from
Chief Sealth International High School
for |
Current 8th Graders & Their Families

LEARN ABOUT OUR FABULOUS PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
ACADEMY OF FINANCE
GLOBAL PROGRAMS
ARTS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
WORLD LANGUAGES

ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM
SPANISH IMMERSION
ATHLETICS/SPORTS
MUSIC
SPECIAL EDUCATION
BLENDED HONORS

GET A TOUR OF THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHEN: THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2019
WHERE: CSIHS LIBRARY
2600 SW THISTLE ST
SEATTLE, WA 98126
TIME: 6:00PM TO 7:00 PM
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...

**THINK!** 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.
STEM Art Extravaganza - Volunteers Needed!!!

Next meeting: January 22, 2020 @ 7pm | Location: Margo’s House  
For details & address of location, please contact: art@stemk8pta.org

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 an 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:

Please contact [art@stemk8pta.org](mailto:art@stemk8pta.org) for more information or if you would like to volunteer!
Introduce a Girl: Renewable Energy

Event Details
WHAT: An afternoon of interactive, hands-on demos provided by student organizations
WHEN: 1-4PM February 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020
WHERE: Mary Gates Hall (University of Washington)
WHO: This event is targeted towards girls in grades 2-5. However, all ages and genders are welcome. Girls scouts receive a patch for attending!

Registration
This event is totally free! However, the capacity of this event is limited. Reserve your spot using the QR code or visit this link.

Featured Demos
- Build your own solar panel
- A submarine powered by human motion
- Solar spinners
- A racecar powered entirely by electricity
- Virtual reality exploration of renewable energy
- Toy cars powered by solar energy
- And many more!
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

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SING IT OUT!

Fridays at 8:47 am

STEM K-8 BREEZEWAY

Join the morning greeting team!
We will be lining the breezeway right before school to greet students as they walk to class.
We will be singing & dancing to one song...
family of all ages are welcome! :)

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Get photos with Santa and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies!

Photos are complimentary.*
We will be accepting donations for the West Seattle Food Bank.
Friday, December 13
3:00pm – 6:00pm
West Seattle Branch • 4022 SW Alaska St.

[HomeStreet Bank]