Owl Post

Week of February 8, 2021

Upcoming Events:

February 1-26th | Open enrollment period for school choice
February 8th | National African American Parent Involvement Day
February 11th | 6:30-8PM STEM PTA Meeting
February 15-19th | Mid-Winter Break NO SCHOOL

To JOIN THE PTA, please use this link:
https://www.memberplanet.com/packetview/louisaborenstemk-8pta/louisaborenstemk-8pta
Message from Principal Ostrom:

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families,

We head into the week before Mid-Winter Break with a lot happening—no surprise. I continue to be in awe at the resourcefulness and resilience of families as they grapple with the otherworldly challenges of remote learning and pandemic life. Your daily efforts to support your children keep me inspired.

I shared information the last two weeks about School Board actions to eliminate Option School busing. The School Board continues to discuss eliminating Option School busing to address next year’s budget issues. My belief is the impact to families is more harmful than the limited $750,000 system-wide savings. I encourage you to reach out to school board members to express your opinion if you are concerned about this issue. My prior communication on this issue is attached for more information. School Board contact information is listed at the bottom of this letter and in the attachment. Here is a link to a PTA online petition to express your opinion. If families use their voices, I do not think Option School busing will be targeted.

The combination of closed school buildings and other uncertainties significantly impacted the number of families visiting STEM for virtual enrollment tours. If you know families looking to choose a school, encourage them to put in a school choice form for STEM K-8 prior to February 26. School choices forms are available at seattleschools.org. STEM K-8 enrollment information is available at both STEMK8PTA.org and on the STEM K-8 website. All STEM families enrolled in grades K-8 are automatically enrolled in the next grade. Preschool families need to both register for school and submit a choice application.

Monday, February 8 is National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). African American families are encouraged to join STEM K-8 classrooms to share things they like to do as a family, including reading a favorite story together, sharing a recipe and cooking a favorite meal, playing a game together, doing a fun project, or anything else. It’s also an opportunity to connect with your child’s teacher to discuss how things are going and what staff can do to support their child's learning.

The SPS Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA) is launching a Listen and Learn forum in February 2021 to continue to listen to Black families as Seattle Public Schools tries to reconstruct our educational system to celebrate the brilliance and excellence of Black boys and teens. AAMA is committed to the long journey of dismantling a legacy of systematic racism. Black families are invited to
participate and collectively envision what an educational environment looks like for Black boys and teens to thrive. Learn more and register at the AAMA Listen and Learn Forums. There are multiple dates including, one specifically for West Seattle families on Monday, February 22, 2021.

All families are invited to this week’s PTA meeting on Thursday, 2-11 at 6:30 pm. For security reasons the links aren’t posted online. You can register for access by contacting president@stemk8pta.org.

To stay abreast of the latest SPS news, read School Beat newsletters. Updates regarding the return to In-person learning are included there and on the SPS Website In-Person Learning page linked here. Significant recent updates:

- SPS is in negotiations with the Seattle Education Association. While SPS continues to think there will be a March 1 start date for students served in Special Education Intensive Services pathways, it is unlikely for PreK-1 students. It’s anticipated that PreK-1 students will have a later start date.
- To prioritize the current relationship between students and their classroom teacher, SPS shared a proposal with SEA that keeps students in an A or B group with two days of in-person instruction for each group.

Many details remain to be worked out before any students return to school. I will try hard to keep you informed.

Stay healthy, brilliant, and sane,

Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal

School Board Contact Information:
schoolboard@seattleschools.org
(School Board Directors, Superintendent, and Senior Staff)

District 1: School Board Director Liza Rankin
liza.rankin@seattleschools.org

District 2: School Board Director Lisa Rivera-Smith
lisa.rivera-smith@seattleschools.org
District 3: School Board Director: Chandra N. Hampson
chandra.hampson@seattleschools.org

District 5: School Board Director: Zachary DeWolf
zachary.dewolf@seattleschools.org

District 6: School Board Director: Leslie Harris
leslie.harris@seattleschools.org

District 7: School Board Director: Brandon K. Hersey
brandon.hersey@seattleschools.org

Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal

Virtual STEM tours before open enrollment period (Feb 1-12). Please let any families you know who are interested.

Microsoft Teams meeting Links below:

Join on your computer or mobile app.
Jan 21: 9:00am - 10:00. STEM K-8 Elementary Tour
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125,317513772# United States, Seattle
Phone Conference ID: 317 513 772#
Join on your computer or mobile app

Jan 28: 9:00am - 10:00. STEM K-8. Middle School Tour
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125,347525951# United States, Seattle
Phone Conference ID: 347 525 951#
Join on your computer or mobile app

Jan 28: 6:00pm-7:00 STEM K-8. Elementary Open House (Includes Teachers)
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125,805082460# United States, Seattle
Phone Conference ID: 805 082 460#
Join on your computer or mobile app

Feb 4: 6:00pm-7:00 STEM K-8. Middle School Open House (Includes Teachers)
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125,215750325# United States, Seattle
Phone Conference ID: 215 750 325#

SPS Open Enrollment timeline:
• Online registration for new students for 2021-22 school year begins: Jan. 4, 2021
• Open Enrollment for School Choice: Feb. 1 - 26, 2021
• Open Enrollment results available online in April
• School Choice Window Closes: May 31, 2020
From Feb 22 - March 13 we are combining our Direct Give campaign with a 100th Day Pledge Drive for the kids. Have your kiddo start thinking about what 100 things they can do, and then we will be sending out info about how to collect pledges for each page they read, or step they walk, or button they find. Questions can be sent to fundraising@stemk8pta.org

We will be launching our Direct Give campaign on the 100th Day of School Feb 22 - March 12
Thanks to the teachers, staff and families who joined the PTA at our BLM Demonstration last Friday! We made the West Seattle Blog!

https://westseattleblog.com/2021/02/west-seattle-scene-louisa-boren-stem-k-8-ptas-demonstration-for-black-lives-matter-at-school-week/
Message from STEM Teachers:

Hello STEM families,

We will be updating you biweekly with information about our school-wide behavior management system (PBIS: Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and social-emotional learning.

This week we would like to share more information about our OwlStanding student award. Every month, we focus on one of our STEM expectations (safe, scholarly, respectful/responsible, and compassionate). Teachers will spend some time during the month to discuss our monthly focus in class. At the end of the month, teachers will then nominate students in their class for demonstrating our monthly focus. These students will be awarded our OwlStanding student award. OwlStanding student award winners are announced at our first assembly of the month. Students who are awarded OwlStanding student will receive an award certificate in the mail. This award is a way for us to recognize and encourage expected behavior in class.

This month, we will focus on being **safe**. Here are a few safe behaviors we will discuss in the month of February.

- Using internet safely
- Making safe choices when using the chat function in Teams
- Using materials and supplies safely
- Washing hands and social distancing to keep yourself and others safe
- Asking for help when needed
- Using equipment as intended

On Tuesday, February 2nd, we will recognize and award our STEM Owls for being scholarly!

Counselor’s Corner:

Hello STEM Community! Long time, no talk. This is Ms. Danielle—your school counselor. Exciting news: this week I will be starting classroom counseling lessons again (yay!)! We’ll be talking about my job as a counselor, how we are alike and how we are different, and families.

Lastly, as a reminder—I am always available to do casual check-ins with students. If interested, here’s the form: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WNEx1HRgMkiHg1Hqb23SJ9NUm2wtW2FGrn10tKDRFaBUQ1AwOUTk5UTZRRIpGTExTUE9BRDFETS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WNEx1HRgMkiHg1Hqb23SJ9NUm2wtW2FGrn10tKDRFaBUQ1AwOUTk5UTZRRIpGTExTUE9BRDFETS4u)

Take care,
Ms. Danielle ([dnblechert@seattleschools.org](mailto:dnblechert@seattleschools.org))
Phone #—call: (425)528-0951
text: (425) 243-7836
LGBTQ+ NEWS & Resources:

Hi there, LGBTQ+ Families Dinner Families and Friends!

We wanted to send some love your way along with an event update! This year has been tough for many reasons and that toughness has been punctuated by our inability to convene for our beloved LGBTQ+ Families Dinner event. Know that we miss you all and that we are still dedicated to holding virtual space for our families! With this in mind, we share our new plan with you!

We invite you to our…
LGBTQ+ Families Dinner Series!

This LGBTQ+ Families Dinner Series is a virtual opportunity for people to connect across shared identities and experiences. Each event in the series is specifically intended for the group highlighted by the event. If you belong to more than one group, you are of course welcome to come to each event that aligns with your experience.

Here are the events!
02/11 LGBTQ+ Students and their Families – specifically for LGBTQ+ Students and their Families
03/18 LGBTQ+ Elementary School Students and their Families – specifically for LGBTQ+ Elementary School Students and their Families
04/08 LGBTQ+ SPS Staff and their Families – specifically for LGBTQ+ SPS Staff

Agendas
2021 Events
5pm-6pm
5pm Welcome
5:10pm-5:50pm Facilitated Discussion
5:50pm Close Out

Brennon Ham is your host and contact for these events. Feel free to reach out to Brennon if you have any questions.

Brennon Ham (pronouns: Brennon/they/he/she)
Health Education Specialist/Trainer, Health Education Department
brham@seattleschools.org
Health Education Department

Ed.M. Candidate, Education Policy and Management
Harvard Graduate School of Education
SHOP AND EARN - RAISE FUNDS FOR STEM

You can support STEM through the shopping you already do!

A full list with links to participating stores is online:
http://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/shop-earn/

Please note that some stores may still list our school as “K-5 STEM”

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<th>Store</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amazon</strong></td>
<td>Use the link below or connect through our school website to Amazon. They send us a check based on the amount you purchase. <a href="http://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/shop-earn/amazon-com/">http://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/shop-earn/amazon-com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bartell Drugs ‘B’ Caring Card</strong></td>
<td>Up to 4% of your purchase amount is contributed to our school. Register your ‘B’ Caring Card in-store, on-line, or call 1-800-931-6258. Once registered, have the cashier swipe your ‘B’ Caring Card at the checkout or type in your 10-digit phone number.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box Tops for Education</strong></td>
<td>Use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to our school's earnings online.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shutterfly &amp; Tiny Prints</strong></td>
<td>Use our School Storefront to earn 8% for STEM. <a href="http://stem.shutterflystorefront.com/">http://stem.shutterflystorefront.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>West Seattle Thriftway</strong></td>
<td>1% of the purchase price of every item you buy is returned to our school. Drop off your West Seattle Thriftway receipts in the donation box in the school office.</td>
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<td><strong>Fred Meyer &amp; Kroger</strong></td>
<td>A digital account is needed to participate in Fred Meyer Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper’s Card to your account and add STEM.</td>
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