Upcoming Events:

February 22 – March 13 | Direct Give Campaign & 100 Day Pledge
March 4th 6:30-8PM | PTA Meeting (president@stemk8pta.org for Zoom info)
March 9th 3-6PM | Outdoor Library
April 12th-16th | No School – Spring Break

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,

Welcome to March! As usual there is enough going on that keeping track could leave you dizzy.

Here is a brief list of updates:

**Bus Transportation for Option Schools**
Although cutting Option School transportation remains under consideration, the Board is considering a much broader set of transportation service changes. Although it’s still possible, the ongoing expression of families’ opinions is having affects. I personally think that final transportation changes will affect all schools, not just Option Schools. The school board has another scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 3 to consider budget issues.

**Return to In Person Learning**
Seattle Public Schools (SPS) announced on Friday that it is prioritizing a return to in person learning for Preschool and Intensive Special Education pathways. SPS classified school employees serving those populations as essential and set a return to school date of March 11 for preschool students. Students receiving Distinct services would return shortly thereafter with the date to be determined. Kindergarten and 1st grade students don’t have a target return date yet. The Seattle Education Association does not agree with this plan, and things could change. Families with preschool and Distinct students will have another opportunity to express their preference for in-person or remote services.

**STEM K-8 2021-22 Budget**
Our projected school budget allocation for next year was surprisingly strong given the current budget situation. We are not looking at significant cuts in staffing. In fact, because SPS had a negotiated increase in the total number of school counselors, and our Free and Reduced lunch population has increased, we actually had increase in our counseling allocation. To learn about next year’s STEM K-8 school budget and express any opinions you may have, attend the Thursday, March 4 STEM K-8 PTA meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm. To receive the Zoom link email president@stemk8pta.org.

Stay healthy, brilliant, and sane,

**Ben Ostrom**
STEM K-8 Principal
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.

Link for 100 Days of School Anything Pledge: https://pledgestar.com/louisaboren/

Link to STEM Direct Give Campaign: https://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/direct-give-donation/
STEM K-8 Kids Need You!

Apply to serve on the PTA board!

It's your big chance to engage in our school community!

Get to know more families

Make a difference

To learn more email: secretary@stemk8pta.org
Congratulations to Global Reading Challenge 5th Grade Readers of Wisdom!
Huge thanks to Ms. Bea, Ms. Louisa and Jenny Craig from Seattle Public Library!

Congratulations to the Louisa Boren K – 8 STEM Global Reading Challenge Winners from Ms. Graves class!
Captain: Isla Team
Members: Belle, Ethan, Hayden, Ihsan, Isla, Jocko, Oscar, Sumaya A., Trixie
All the teams did an excellent job, with the three teams getting many of the same questions answered correctly! The scores were SO close!!!! Students surmounted technical difficulties with Co-Captains/Recorders as necessary to get their answers turned in.

We still have the Global Reading Art Entries to enjoy. The deadline for submission is at the end of March. We will have a presentation likely in April.

Awesome Teamwork from The Blue Hamsters and Clever Peeps Return!!

**Blue Hamsters**
Co-Captains: Sophie and Zoe
Members:
  * Imran
  * Lucca
  * Maddy
  * Mohamed
  * Sophie
  * Zoe

**Clever Peeps Return**

Captain: Kimberly
Members:
  * Cormac
  * Kimberly
  * Riley
  * Salma
All the Global Reading Challenge Titles from this year and previous years are available for Check Out from STEM Outdoor Library!

Please check them out Tuesday, March 9th from 3-6pm at STEM Outdoor Library!

READ, READ, READ!!!!!!!!!!
Middle School Athletics Update

To our STEM Families and Community,

Wow, I can’t believe how quickly we are moving into the 2nd half of the 2020-2021 school year. As we all continue to navigate through the challenges of remote learning and covid guidelines and restrictions, I want to give a program update, regarding our Middle School Athletics program. Below are the current updates:

- **Athletics season start date:** A start date for middle school athletics has not been confirmed, yet. SPS’ district athletics department has been meeting monthly with the athletic coordinators, and the athletic coaches to work out the logistics of providing a safe athletic season that fits within the Washington State safety guidelines set by the governor.

- **Open Coaching Positions at STEM**

  There are a couple open head coach positions, in our athletics program:

  - Boys Soccer, Head Coach
  - Ultimate Frisbee, Head Coach

If you are interested in being a part of our STEM athletics’ coaching staff, please visit the Seattle Public Schools website, [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org), click Jobs, for more information on the application process or contact, Kim Noble, Assistant Principal, [kfnoble@seattleschools.org](mailto:kfnoble@seattleschools.org), or Sonya Glaspy, [soglaspy@seattleschools.org](mailto:soglaspy@seattleschools.org), Athletic Coordinator, for more information.

- **Louisa Boren STEM Athletics Gear**

Adidas is our district sponsor for middle school and high school athletic gear. The Adidas store, for Louisa Boren STEM K-8, is now open until March 3, 2021. Here is the link to the store catalog, [https://borencg1561.itemorder.com/](https://borencg1561.itemorder.com/)

Thank you.

STEM Middle School Athletics
Counselor’s Corner:
Please check out this information from Sound Discipline. It is full of great resources. Just click the link below:


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=WNEx1HRgMkiHg1Hqb23SJ9NUm2wtW2FGrn10tKDRFaBUQ1AwOUtWTkc5UTZRRIpGTExTUE9BRDFETS4u

Take care,
Ms. Danielle (dnblechert@seattleschools.org)
Phone #: call: (425)528-0951
text: (425) 243-7836

FREE RIDES TO LYFTUP SCHOOL COMMUNITIES:

Aetna is offering free Lyft Ride codes for Seattle School Families to Access Meals and Resources During the Covid-19 Crisis.

Fill out this form to request your code that is worth $20 and good for 60 days:

https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CC2TAN0Nr0S3AMPAVJ5OaOt0nW9rXVCm55FK9R75-1UM05JWtIQRDA5MTVSTE5CQVo2MFZHREdNNy4u
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!

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

Don’t forget to check out the STEM Gazette!

https://stemgazette2020.wixsite.com/mysite
**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/](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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<tr>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazon</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>Bartell Drugs ‘B’ Caring Card</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>Box Tops for Education</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>Shutterfly &amp; Tiny Prints</td>
<td>Use our School Storefront to earn 8% for STEM. <a href="http://stem.shutterflystorefront.com/">http://stem.shutterflystorefront.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Seattle Thriftway</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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<tr>
<td>Fred Meyer &amp; Kroger</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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