



Owl Post

Week of November 30, 2020

Upcoming Events:

November 10th-30th | [STEM eBook Fair](#)

December 1st 3PM-6PM | Library Curbside Check-Outs/Returns

December 10th 6:30PM-8:00PM | PTA Zoom Meeting

December 15th 3PM-6PM | Library Curbside Check-Outs/Returns

The STEM PTA needs your help! We have openings that need to be filled for Vice President, Co-Treasurer, and Advocacy Chair. See details below!

Message from Principal Ostrom:



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families,

I hope families were able to navigate successfully through the complicated mess of creating meaningful, safe connections with family and friends, finding gratitude while decolonizing Thanksgiving, and renewing yourselves! I managed to fulfill some of those aims on a Thanksgiving bike trip traveling the Chief Sealth and Duwamish trails, walking to the top of [Duwamish hill](#), listening to Roger Fernandez tell a Duwamish story at the top (also streamed in the prior website), and completing my long-overdue registration for the [Duwamish tribe's Real Rent program](#).

Washington State restrictions on indoor gatherings and commercial activities are still evolving as we grapple with the current COVID-19 surge. SPS is asking school staff to focus access to schools on essential functions during the month of December. Lowering the number of interactions in indoor spaces will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At this point on **Tuesday, December 1 from 3-6 pm** we are still hosting a **K-8 curbside library check out and 6th and 7th grade literature hand outs and 7th grade science materials distribution**. If further guidance changes that schedule, we will let you know.

The ongoing economic fallout from Covid-19 is affecting many of our families. In addition to contacting our school counselor Danielle Blechert dblechert@seattleschools.org for Right Now Needs Fund emergency support, Southwest Youth and Family Services (SWYFS) is also now providing rent assistance. To access this support please contact SWYFS' Jillian Fields at 206-279-0813.

Due to a shortage of remote assessment options, Seattle Public Schools recently decided that Interim SBA checkpoints will be administered to 3rd-8th grade students two times/year in reading and math. These checkpoints are significantly shorter and more focused than the comprehensive, high stakes, year-end SBA testing families and students have been used to in the past. The reading and math assessments will take approximately a class period each. Results will be used by teachers to plan instruction with a better understanding of what students know. The first round of SBA checkpoints will be primarily administered during January. However, we will have a few classes try one of the assessments between Dec. 9-11 to help identify and troubleshoot challenges in advance.

This week we are saying goodbye to Milica Milovanovic and welcoming back Christina Massimino in our Technology Specialist position. They will overlap December 2-4. We have had the great fortune of having a new Ms. M. take over and be an amazing bridge in our community until the return of our regular Ms. M. Thanks Ms. Milovanovic and good luck in your next stop. Welcome back Ms. Massimino!

Stay healthy, brilliant, and sane,

Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal

A note from Ms. M:

Dear Louisa Boren STEM families and staff,

A lot of you may be familiar with me – I am Ms. Milovanovic (or Ms. M) the long-term substitute for Technology and Makerspace. I have had a lot of fun in class with students as they learned about digital citizenship and been delighted by some of the amazing creations students shared with me.

In the first weeks of December, the wonderful Ms. Massimino will be returning to the school and I will be heading out. It has truly been a pleasure to work here at STEM and I have come to love this school and all the students and staff. I am sad to say goodbye, but I know how exciting it will be for everyone when Ms. Massimino returns!

From the kindergarteners all the way up to the eighth graders, I will miss you all and I hope you have a wonderful rest of the school year!

Kind regards,


Ms. Milovanovic (Ms. M)

Please help with STEM's Virtual Giving Tree for STEM Families this year:

Louisa Boren STEM K-8

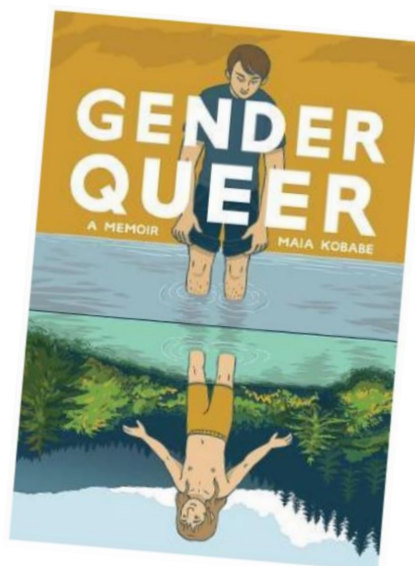
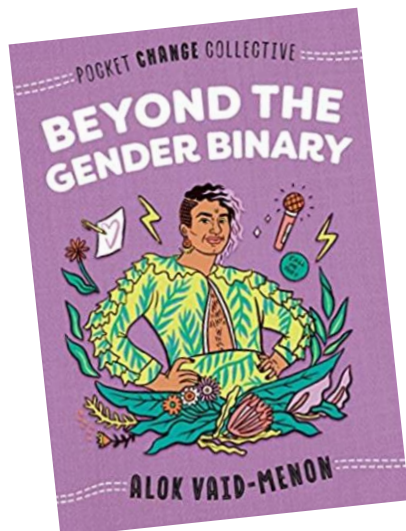
Giving Tree for STEM Families.

Support our community who need the most support this season with gift cards for groceries over the breaks & gifts for their families. Danielle, the school counselor, will be organizing.



Donations can be sent by check or PayPal to the STEM PTA. Indicate that this is for the holiday giving tree. Anything received after Dec 18 will be a general donation. Contact fundraising@k8stempta.org if you have questions.

Thank you to those of you who joined our November PTA meeting and our discussion of LGBTQ+ issues and celebrated Transgender Awareness month!



Don't forget to read these books for more information about transgender and nonbinary individuals. Here are additional resources for parents/families who are interested in furthering their knowledge on this topic:

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-trans-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2020>

To learn more about pronouns check out:

<https://www.archiebongiovanni.com/A-Quick-And-Easy-Guide-To-They-Them-Pronouns>

Going forward, PTA Zoom meeting details will be sent to members via Member Planet. If you are not a member and would like to join please feel free to email president@stemk8pta.org. Thank you!

To JOIN THE PTA, please use this link:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/packetview/louisaborenstemk-8pta/louisaborenstemk-8pta>

DON'T MISS STEM'S FOLLETT e-Book Fair (Nov 10th-30th)!

Thank you to STEM PTA for hosting our first ever [STEM e-Book Fair November 10th – 30th!](#)

Over the last few years, we were seeking a book fair vendor that offered a more diverse variety of books to better represent our students and families. We had planned to offer an in-building Follett Book Fair last spring, but then COVID happened. Special thanks to Angela Wallis for stepping in as our [e-Book Fair](#) chairperson. 25% of all proceeds go back to STEM's library.

This is an opportunity to get books to our students to **READ! READ! READ! READ! READ!**

How to Shop the e-Book Fair

Video: https://players.brightcove.net/1464976798001/default_index.html?videoId=6183300179001

Love those book fair flyers from your childhood, check this out! https://cdn.brandfolder.io/9PA1UQVX/as/qc50dt-8y3no8-dj24d1/K-8_Flyer.pdf

Follett Book Fairs

IT'S BOOK FAIR TIME!

Adventure awaits in every book.

ALL PURCHASES BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL!

FREE PIN WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY BAD KITTY SERIES BOOK.*

NICK BRUEL
BAD KITTY
KITTEEN TROUBLE
The *New York Times* Bestselling Series
\$6.99 Paperback

Book 2
Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Adventure
Jeff Kinney
You've never seen the Wimpy Kid World like this before – an entirely new, awesome, friendly, truly fantastic fantasy quest.
\$14.99 Hardcover

Totally Awesome Pranks
Canopy Books
From funny food pranks to wacky water gaps, this book is filled with instructions to pull hilarious jokes on your friends and family.
\$3.99 Exclusive Paperback

Wordy Birdy Meets Mr. Cougarpants
Tammi Sauer
Illustrated by Dave Mithran
While on a camping trip, Wordy Birdy and friends get an unexpected visit from Mr. Cougarpants. Can Wordy Birdy talk herself out of becoming dinner?
\$7.99 Paperback

The Loud House: Ultimate Hangout
The Loud House Creative Team
With all the Loud girls out for a special Mother-Daughters Day, how long will Lincoln enjoy being an only child?
\$7.99 Paperback

Nickelodeon's Animated Show

*Free pin with purchase while supplies last.

Order these and more exciting books at efairs.follettbookfairs.com. Use code:

Mrs. B's Library Message:

Upcoming STEM Outdoor Library Dates

Storms, SNOW/ICE, Reduced Covid Phase cancels events



[GLOBALREADING CHALLENGE BOOKS](#) AVAILABLE for 4th & 5th Thankful! **GGLOW**

Tuesday, December 1st 3-6 pm Holiday Crafts HOLDS by 11-20 please

Tuesday, December 15th 3-6 pm 15th Holiday/Winter Holds by 12-11

Library HOLDS Directions: SPS has added Chinese, Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese translations to our holds instructions. These are available here:

https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/library_services/library_resources

Counselor's Corner:

Hi STEM community,

Hope you & your family were able to do find some joy this past week. With the holidays, the days getting shorter and darker, and COVID lingering- this time of year might be particularly hard. We may be used to spending time with loved ones but are unable to this year. This article from ChildMind has some good tips for reducing stress, helping kids cope, and making new traditions during these next few months:

<https://childmind.org/article/holiday-during-the-pandemic/>

For the STEM Counseling Program- I am starting classroom lessons next month on managing anxiety & stress. No doubt useful skills for all ages! We will also be continuing to distribute gift-cards/financial support to families in need. If you would like to be considered- please let me know. We are also collaborating with the PTA if families would like to donate to these holiday funds! Check the Owl Post & PTA Website for more info.

Remember you & your families mental health comes first over all else!

Danielle Blechert
School Counselor
dblechert@seattleschools.org

COVID-19 Community Resources: <https://www.uwkc.org/need-help/covid-19-resources/>

"I believe that all organizing is science fiction- that we are shaping the future we long for and have not yet experienced" -adrienne marie brown

Our Student, Our Stories Featuring STEM Families!

Seattle Public Schools Health Education Office and local Seattle photographer Nate Gowdy have joined forces to highlight the stories of our amazing LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and more) students in Seattle Public Schools, as well as LGBTQ+ staff in a photo book and portrait exhibit.

The "[Our Students, Their Stories](#)" project showcases the strength, resilience, and unapologetic pride of these queer and trans students. This project also highlights the loving and supportive families of these LGBTQ+ young people, as well as shines light on some LGBTQ+ staff who help lift up queer and trans youth in big and small ways every day.

The photo book and stories gathered will be used to inform staff training, classroom education, community engagement, parent education, and to celebrate our students' individual journeys today, and act as a touchstone for future generations.

This would make a wonderful holiday gift!



Calling all STEM Adults! Please we really need your help!

*Have you ever considered volunteering for a non-profit Board? Now is your opportunity! The [Louisa Boren STEM PTA](#) is seeking volunteers to fill two officer positions for the 2020-21 school year! Our Executive Board needs a **Vice President and Co-Treasurer** and our General Board has openings for our **Advocacy Chair and Race & Equity Chair**. Our PTA is active, organized, and committed to the well-being of our school community. Our work is grounded in equity; we support school activities to fill gaps in District funding, including annual library book purchases, project-based learning supplies, classroom resources and supplies, substitute teachers, and teacher development. Please consider offering your time to support our kids and teachers during this upcoming year! Contact Angela Wallis, nominations committee chair, at secretary@stemk8pta.org, or 206-999-2132 with questions, or to demonstrate your interest!*

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Executive Team Vice President and Co-Treasurer Roles and Responsibilities

The STEM K8 PTA Board of Directors is engaged, active, and committed to providing funding and activities to engage all students and teachers. We look forward to filling this important position for the 2020-21 school year. The Vice President position “rolls up” to President for the 2021-22 school year (a two-year commitment).

VICE PRESIDENT Duties of the Vice President include:

- Leading committees as needed;
- Participating in at least one major fundraising initiative;
- Participating in and volunteering for school and PTA events;
- Depositing and signing checks as needed;
- Participating in monthly meetings and other communications with the school Principal and PTA President;
- Planning membership meeting agendas with the President;
- Preparing for the President position in year two;
- Meeting other parents, learning about STEM and the school district, and having fun!

CO-TREASURER (a two-year commitment; position rolls up automatically to Treasurer in year 2)

The duties of the co-treasurer include:

- Supporting the treasurer role;
 - Stands in for treasurer as needed and learns the role within the executive team;
 - Attending all executive team and board meetings;
 - Performing monthly bank statement reviews;
 - Serving as co-chair of the budget committee with the treasurer;
 - Serving as chair of the mid-year and year-end financial review committee ensuring these two reviews are completed yearly;
 - Participating in and volunteering for school and PTA events.
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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"

	<p>Amazon - Use the link below or connect through our school website to Amazon. They send us a check based on the amount you purchase. http://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/shop-earn/amazon-com/</p>
	<p>Bartell Drugs 'B' Caring Card - 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.</p>
	<p>Box Tops for Education – 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.</p>
	<p>Shutterfly & Tiny Prints - Use our School Storefront to earn 8% for STEM. http://stem.shutterflystorefront.com/</p>
	<p>West Seattle Thriftway – 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.</p>
	<p>Fred Meyer & Kroger– 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.</p>