

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

OPTIONS OPUS

A Community Committed to Learning, Kindness, and Celebration

Jump On In!

--Erik Neatherlin, Options Community Council President

The school year is off to a terrific start. We had great attendance at the class potlucks and class meetings and there seems to be a high level of energy surging throughout the school. Lots of hugs, smiles, and laughing, all sure signs that we are creating a good place for learning.

Parent Participation – making it more accessible

We are fortunate as Lincoln parents to have lots of opportunities to share and shape our children's education, and all parents are encouraged to spend about 5 hours a month helping out.

One of our goals for parent participation this year is to make it easier for parents to participate more manageably in large, school-wide events such as the auction and Camp Elderberry. We hope to do this not only by having lots of parents participating, but also by separating big jobs into smaller bite-sized (5-10 hour) tasks. Look for more information on this next month. Please complete and submit your yellow Parent Participation Forms to the office. These assist us in matching up volunteer opportunities with your specific skills and interests.

Here are some tried and true opportunities to engage in right away...

Library: Donna can put you to work whether you have 5 minutes or 5 hours...and make it fun either way!

Classroom: Everything from assisting with a math or literature group, help with spelling, to chaperoning field trips, helping with experiments in Paul's class or even washing doll clothes... Never a dull moment.

Committees: These groups are just gearing up and are a wonderful place to get involved. Don't know what committees are about and want to learn more? Attend the committee meetings the 4th Tuesday of every month, 7 pm in the library.

Early Release: Addie Spencer and Rob Honan, early release co-coordinators, are always looking for parents to help out with the Friday early release activities. A great way for parents to share their knowledge and experience with the kids.

Garden: Weeding, mulching, raking; there is always work to be done in the garden!

OCTOBER 2011

PICTURE DAY

Friday, October 7

CONFERENCE WEEK

October 10-14

Early Release 12:55 – No Early Release Activities

AUCTION TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, October 12 6:30 pm

OCC

Tuesday, October 11 6:30 pm

TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY

NO SCHOOL

Friday, October 21

OCC & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 25 6:30 pm

EARLY RELEASE at 12:55 pm

Friday, October 28

NOVEMBER 2011

NO MORNING BUS SERVICE

Wednesday, November 2

USED BOOK & TOY SALE

Saturday & Sunday, November 5-6

OCC

Tuesday, November 8 6:30 pm

DISTRICT EARLY RELEASE

Thursday, November 10

Early Release 12:55 pm

VETERANS' DAY

Friday, November 11 – **No School**

PICTURE RETAKES

Wednesday, November 16

OCC & COMMITTEES

Tuesday, November 22 6:30 pm

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Thursday & Friday

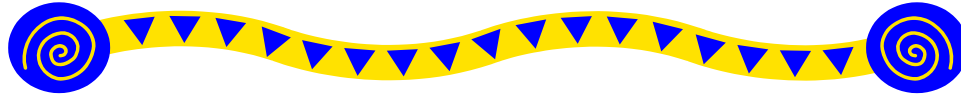
November 24-25

Jump On In! (Cont. from page 1)

Pledge Drive

Thanks to Pledge Drive Coordinators Patricia Johnson and Stacey Waterman-Hoey, and previous Lincoln parent Kenna Canaan for the awesome Pledge Drive display. Our goal is 100% participation -- no donation is too small. Let's watch that stack of bricks grow as we all contribute, one brick at a time.

It is all of us that make Lincoln a wonderful place for our kids to learn and thrive, so jump on in and enjoy!



FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

Please remember that tuition payments are due on or before the 25th of the month. We do not have resources to send monthly invoices and rely on you to remember to make your payments on time. If you have on-line banking you may be able to set up a recurring payment sent to the Lincoln office. Otherwise, please mark your calendar, and /or tie a string around your finger!

If you have questions you can call Alex at 357-3707.

AUCTION TEAM MEETING – GET IN AT THE BEGINNING

The first Auction Team meeting will be Wednesday, October 12th at 6:30 in the teachers' lounge. All classroom fundraising representatives and all interested parties, please plan to attend.

The Auction is earlier than usual this school year (Saturday, February 25th), so let's get the planning off to a great start!

SCHOOL FORMS ARE DUE

Please complete all 2011-2012 student information forms distributed at class meetings or sent home in the mail and return to Wendy T. in the main office. ***All forms were due Friday, September 30th.*** It is vital that the forms are updated each year in order to assure that you receive important mailings and, more importantly, to insure that we have current medial and emergency information for your child. Don't forget the two tear-out forms at the back of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* (they can be easy to miss).

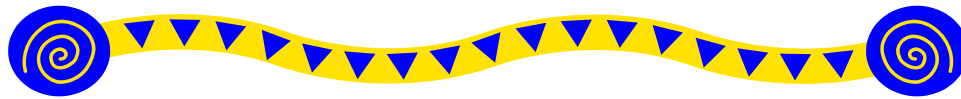
The Lincoln Options directory is being created, so if you have not turned in your highlighted student information form, please do so immediately. ***Please note that these forms must be signed and the information you wish to have published in the Directory must be highlighted. We cannot include you in the Directory if we don't receive your signed and highlighted form.*** Thank you!

PARTNERS IN MATH: *Working toward a shared vision of mathematical competence at Lincoln*

-- Marcela Abadi, Principal

Last spring, the Lincoln teachers and two math teacher education faculty from The Evergreen State College, Anita Lenges and Sunshine Campbell, began a 3-year collaborative partnership to improve math teaching to and learning for Lincoln students. Lincoln teachers are working to develop their expertise in three high-leverage teaching practices that educational research demonstrates improves student learning. These teaching practices support students in developing conceptual understanding and procedural fluency by connecting mathematics to their lives.

The group is using the Common Core State Standards to provide a vision for how children can engage in learning as young mathematicians. Together we are participating in professional development sessions that include studying and researching how students think about math and how our teaching practices impact student learning. Throughout this process, teachers will plan lessons collaboratively and observe each other teaching. Our work on this initiative is centered on a shared commitment to opening doors for students through increased mathematical competence. We see parents as key participants in this work. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.



Assistance Programs @ Lincoln:

Thanks to the Olympia School District, the Food Bank, and other charitable organizations in our community, several programs are available to families who find themselves needing assistance during difficult times. Family circumstances can change and these programs are available to you anytime throughout the year.

- Thanksgiving Dinners organized and delivered by the Trinity Lutheran Church, provides families with all the makings for a Thanksgiving meal. Contact Wendy T (596-6400)
- ForKids provides a weekend supply of snack foods delivered every Friday by the Food Bank and distributed to children in their backpacks or on coat hooks. Contact Wendy T. (596-6400)
- Holiday Support: various types of support are available during winter and spring holidays as needed. If you are interested in this support for your family, contact Wendy T. (596-6400)
- Emergency fund Checkbook offers funds to be used for many types of assistance, including school supplies, backpacks, clothing, gas, or transportation vouchers. Please contact Marcela (596-6405) to access this support.
- The National School Lunch/Breakfast program is funded to provide school meals at a free and/or reduced rate to families with financial need. Your application to this program benefits not only your family, but our school, so please stop by the office and pick up a form if you don't already have one.

GARDEN NEWS

As we harvest, many thanks are due...

Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Gardening is civil and social, but it wants the vigor and freedom of the forest and the outlaw."

Many thanks to the summer saviors who tended the garden while children played away their summer days. Everything grew, including weeds, and it took many hands to keep as much room for crops and paths as clear as possible. Thank you for your dedication, laughter shared, and labors of love to keep things tidy until students and teachers took the reins again.

More thanks to last year's garden class representatives and those who've signed up this year. On we grow!

Another huge thanks goes to Laura Hunter, communication manager of the garden coordinator team for the past two years. Instrumental as a member of the team overall, your creative energy and ability to see and communicate our activities (in words, pictures or drawings) is much appreciated. We'll miss you!

We have a parent interested in splitting the role of garden communication manager – do we see a second? Communication manager activities include sending e-mail messages, making fliers, maintaining the garden mailing list and participating in the garden think tank.

And thank you to teachers and students for embracing the garden when we returned to school. It looks fabulous!

The Garden Coordinator Team:
Paul, Shanty, Paulette and Angie

Why is Early Release Time so important for Lincoln Options?

Lincoln teachers and staff work collaboratively to develop school-wide plans and curriculum that are consistent with the Lincoln Options Design for Learning (ODL). That kind of collaboration can't be accomplished in just a couple of hour long morning meetings every month, but requires a larger, more cohesive block of time when teachers do not have to worry about the school day beginning in just a few more minutes.

Parent Volunteer Opportunity at Early Release Fridays

Let your inner teacher out! Come be an instructor for a Friday afternoon enrichment activity. The kids are eager to learn and we need you to share your talents. We are looking for a potter! We have clay, a kiln and pottery classes have always been a favorite.

Could you teach acting, juggling, creative writing, or calligraphy? Strategic games, jump rope, or needle point? Or if you prefer to be a helper instead, that is great too. I can pair you up with someone who needs an extra pair of adult hands for his or her class.

The time commitment is minimal. Just a fun filled Friday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:22 PM!

We can reimburse you for supplies. Plus your kid(s) can attend any enrichment activity free of charge on the days you volunteer!

Check the list of Early Release dates to see if one or two might work for you. Contact Addie Spencer at 705-0879 or addiespencer@comcast.net to sign up.

USED BOOK & TOY SALE

November 5th & 6th

NOW ACCEPTING:

Adult and Children's Book Donations

In mid-October:

Bring in Toys!

If you can provide additional storage for toys until the sale, please see Donna.

Eat, Work, Learn

-- Paul Rocks, Science & Music Teacher

September is a month of warm days, sunflowers, new school supplies, and time in the garden. I am always struck by the beauty of our garden. If gardening is a process, then the month of September delivers the product: a bumper crop of tomatoes, corn, carrots, beets, cabbage, pumpkins, beans, peppers, basil, garlic, cardoons, soon to be harvested and cooked by small hands for the Harvest Festival on September 30th.

Retired teacher, Michael Dempster, developed a learning structure for our garden that focuses on learning, working, and eating. Each class works with me in the garden twice a week during the first part of the school year. We do some heavy work – pulling weeds, spreading bark, collecting and organizing seed. We eat right from the garden – fresh corn, ripe tomatoes from the vine, sour grapes, and carrots pulled from the ground. We explore concepts – the sun's energy, community, diversity, interrelationships,

cycles, change, and adaptations.

Our garden curriculum is based on the work of Steve Van Matre, an environmental educator. We explore concepts such as the sun's energy, community, diversity, interrelationships, cycles, change, and adaptations. For example, the tomato we ate for snack used the sun's energy to grow, was pollinated by a bumble bee, by gripping the flower with its legs and vibrating its flight muscles (honey bees can't do this), the seeds from the tomato will fall to the ground, and the cycle starts all over again. As a community, we are partly responsible for the food we eat, because we planted it, cared for it, harvested, and consumed that food.

Finally, in thinking about this year's theme – Sense of Place – I am hopeful that for many of our kids, their understanding of a sense of place will begin in the Lincoln Garden.

*I am grateful
that we have a place to till,
plant, weed, water, and love.*

*I am grateful
for a legacy of parents and
teachers who realized in 1994
the potential for a school
garden to be a place for
children to foster an
appreciation for the natural
world.*

*I am grateful
for a place that demonstrates
that food comes from the
Earth, and that we are
connected to nature's
processes.*

*I am grateful
for the many individuals who
have contributed their talents,
gifts, and energy.*

*I am grateful
for the huge greenhouse, one
of the largest worm bins in
Thurston County, an
irrigation system, chicken
enclosure, and raised beds
dedicated to growing fresh
produce for the Food Bank.*

*And most of all,
I am grateful
that I get to spend the month
of September working in the
garden with all these bright,
curious young people.*

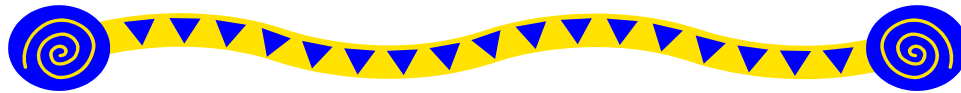
Conference Week at LINCOLN OPTIONS

-- Paul Rocks, Science & Music Teacher

Each year we set aside two weeks for conferences as a time for teachers, students, and parents to set goals, reflect, connect, and celebrate achievements. The first conference, held in early October, is a goal-setting time. Goal setting is one of the many thinking skills taught at Lincoln. It is a time to share our wishes for the school year, and to plan for success. As adults we connect with each other to create a safety net of love and respect for each child. Goals are made in the areas of math, reading, writing, and social/emotional development.

The spring conference, held in March, is a time of reflection and self-evaluation. We look back on early goals and celebrate the learner. It is a time to re-assess and decide what is next for each student.

Students at Lincoln begin this process in Kindergarten and continue throughout their time at Lincoln. As children get experience setting goals and self-evaluating, they develop an intrinsic motivation to learn, as well as the skills to be a self-directed learner.



Options OPUS Deadlines

Our goal is to get the Opus out to you during the last week of the month for the month to come. That means submissions need to get to opuseditor@gmail.com by the middle of each month so that we have time to edit, fact-check, proof, format, and go through the final process with the main office prior to email distribution and printing.

Upcoming Deadlines:

October 14
November 18
December 9
January 20
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18

Questions? Contact Melissa Minjares at opuseditor@gmail.com.

Sustainability: We hope to shift distribution of the Opus almost entirely to email this year. If you need a paper copy, please let us know in the main office.

OPTIONS PLEDGE DRIVE

The Lincoln Pledge Drive is underway. We are climbing to our goal of 100% participation. No amount is too small (or too large). *Every donation contributes* to sustaining Lincoln Options by: providing money for classroom art supplies, supporting the Spanish Program, maintaining the garden, and feeding the chickens.

Money earned through the pledge drive helps reduce the uncertainty and stress often associated with other fundraising events. And it frees up parent volunteer time and energy for helping in the classroom.

You can pick up a form in the office at Lincoln. Hand in your pledges to Wendy T. in the office. State employees can also donate to Lincoln through the Combined Fund Drive. If you have questions, contact Patricia Johnson at (360)970-1959 or at pinyonjuniper@gmail.com or Stacy Waterman-Hoey (360)705-4638 or at stacey@watermanhoey.com

Only you can help us reach new heights!