

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

OPTIONS OPUS

A Community Committed to Learning, Kindness, and Celebration

Reading, Writing, and Eating

--Erik Neatherlin, Options Community Council President

November is an exciting time for reading, writing, and eating!

Library Fundraiser

The *Lincoln Library Book and Toy Sale* is just around the corner, November 5-6. You do not want to miss this. It is truly a community event and a great place to get a deal on books and toys. Visit Donna in the library to find out how you can volunteer!

Committee Opportunities

Interested in writing? The *Communications Team* is looking for people to help with the Opus and with the LincolnOptions.org webpage. Contact Wendy T in the office to find out more.

How about eating? The *Whole Body/Whole Mind committee* has a brand new group of parents that are energized with ideas about nutrition, healthy food options, and community. If this sounds at all interesting, you are encouraged to join them when committees meet, 4th Tuesdays at 7 pm.

A Slice of Auction Pie

Do you love PIE? How about an Auction Pie? The auction committee has divided the large job of auction planning up into bite-sized "pie" pieces. Keep an eye out as the Auction Pie and the individual pie pieces begin to show up around the school. Everyone is encouraged to take a slice or just a bite of a slice to make small work of a big job.

All committees meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 7pm – 8:30pm in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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Revived! Healthy Food Workgroup

We are passionate about nourishing our growing children's brains with whole, healthy foods and have lots of ideas we'd like to explore.

Want to find out more or interested in joining us? Contact us at healthyfoodworkgroup@googlegroups.com or call Stephanie at (360) 951-6356.

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*

PARENT ENRICHMENT NIGHT
Monday, November 14 6:30 pm

PICTURE RETAKES
Wednesday, November 16

OCC & COMMITTEES
Tuesday, November 22 6:30 pm

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Thursday & Friday
November 24-25

LINCOLN WINTER MARKET
Saturday, November 26, 11-4

DECEMBER 2011

NO MORNING BUS SERVICE
Wednesday, December 7

EARLY RELEASE at 12:55 pm
Friday, December 9

OCC
Tuesday, December 13 6:30 pm

WINTER BREAK
December 19- January 3

NEW DATE FOR LINCOLN
AUCTION
March 10

From the Library — Donna Dannenmiller

GIVE YOUR CHILDREN THE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR LIVES!¹

There is one activity that levels the academic playing field for all children (regardless of gender, class, race, working parents, single parents, or English as a second language)

- ✓ What improves *reading skills*?
- ✓ What improves *attention span*?
- ✓ What contributes to their *background knowledge* of the subject areas?
- ✓ What greatly increases a child's *vocabulary*, and his or her understanding of *new concepts*?
- ✓ What improves *problem solving* and *critical thinking skills* that are transferable to other areas of learning?
- ✓ What improves *chances* that your child will *stay in school* and become employable?
- ✓ What nurtures *emotional development* and *improves self-esteem*?
- ✓ What offers *information*?
- ✓ What offers *laughter* and *entertainment* and an alternative to television?
- ✓ What helps *create empathy* toward other people?
- ✓ What *stimulates* the *imagination*?
- ✓ What allows you to take *a trip to another culture* without spending a cent?
- ✓ What *increases life span* by improving *quality of life*?
- ✓ What conditions your child to *associate reading with pleasure* for a lifetime activity?
- ✓ What provides your child with a *reading role model*?

If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales.

If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.

— Albert Einstein

Simply reading aloud daily, to your children, young or old, will give them the advantage. Once your children begin reading independently, it is important to ***continue reading aloud to them at a level just above their own reading level*** so that they hear the vocabulary and concepts that they will be tackling soon in their own independent reading. Also ***dialoguing about the vocabulary and ideas as you read is crucial!***

See Donna for Family Read Aloud suggestions. Also remember, your child can check out a Family Read Aloud as a “BONUS” book above their check out limit.

¹ Acknowledgments to Jim Trelease's **The Read Aloud Handbook** and Esme Raji Codell's **How to Get Your Child to Love Reading**. Both titles are available for checkout in our **Parent Resource Library**.

Lincoln Options Oral History Project Needs Volunteers

By Gail O'Sullivan

People at Lincoln have long desired some way of capturing the rich history of Lincoln Options. As a member of the council who is most unencumbered by the day-to-day responsibilities of children and classrooms, I thought I could add my skills and time to help make this happen. I'm your "Community Member at Large" on the Council, and I live in the neighborhood and have many little friends (who are now bigger friends) that have been blessed by the Lincoln experience.

Last year, I expressed my interest to the Council and the Staff and got their permission to do a couple of interviews with alumni with the help of students during early release. While these videos do add something to telling the story of Lincoln, we need a lot more of them.

Volunteers on this project would be helping me review old VHS footage (donated by Michael Dempster) to decide what to include into a historical piece. But more important, I need help identifying the children from the past who are still available in our community and would make good interview subjects.

We also need donations of a digital video camera and a lapel microphone. As volunteers come forward, we'll form our own committee and arrange for convenient times to meet. This project won't require a lot of your time and the time spent promises to be pretty enjoyable. I have a lot of enthusiasm for this project but I can't do it without the insights of those who know Lincoln the best. If you want to help, please contact Gail O'Sullivan (gail@fertileground.org or 360 352-2428)

Preschool Peer Models Needed!

Would you like your preschooler (birthdate prior to 9-1-08) to participate in Olympia School District's preschool program? We have a few spots left for peer models in our classes at **Roosevelt, Madison, Garfield and Hansen**. (Students do not need to live in those schools' attendance areas.) Preschool meets Tuesday through Friday, with both morning and afternoon sessions. Tuition is \$181.50 (full fee) or \$66.00 (reduced fee) per month, based on family income. Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from preschool. If you are interested, please contact Cissy McCormick, Early Childhood Director, at 596-7542 (cmmccorm@osd.wednet.edu) for more information.

Birthday Parties and Invitations

It is a difficult and heartbreaking experience for a child to see his or her classmates receive a party invitation and discover that he or she has been left out.

Please do not allow your child to distribute party invitations at school unless every classmate has been invited. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

What I Love About K-1!

By Maddy Thompson, parent of children in Wendy's K-1

As a parent new to Lincoln, I am thrilled with what I am hearing from my girls as they experience Lincoln Options. From pre-school to kindergarten the expectations for our children's learning have skyrocketed and they are rising to the challenge. As parents, we are learning along with them. There are so many parts of the day that are enriching for our children starting with Wendy's loving and deliberate approach; the way she is building the blocks for academic learning and respectful, caring social interactions; the children's visits to the garden; the joy of being part of a community at Tuesday morning assemblies; cultural expansion through Luis' Spanish and Paulette's storytelling; Paul's intriguing science; Marcella's openness; front office and nurse support; parent involvement; and so much more.

I'd like to focus briefly on one element: the way our children are modeling language they are hearing at school when they talk with each other, their friends, and with us. Here are a few examples of what they are saying:

- "How about we make a plan? Let's think of a few options."
- "Now I am really going to challenge you, I know you can do it!" (while playing teacher and holding up cards with various numbers of dots on them as part of "subitizing" (math skill building))
- "I am so proud of myself because I asked for what I wanted calmly."

I hear new nouns, verbs, and phrases. Our children are articulating a new understanding of values and ideas through their use of language. This new language that is seeping into their conversation brings them a new level of confidence in themselves and a thrill of learning. It is also teaching them clear communication skills and a framework for offering others respect. It's a good reminder of the power of language.

When I hear this new language, I take note of it, and I think more about the way I communicate with all the people in my world. Thanks Wendy and all at Lincoln!

WANTED: Olympia Junior Programs School Representative

Do you love theater?! OJP is a program designed to give students, grades 1-6, the opportunity to experience live theater at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. As OJP is an all-volunteer organization, they need 1-2 parent volunteers from each school to assist in organizing their students' participation. The responsibilities of this volunteer will include serving as a liaison between OJP and Lincoln Options, coordinating the OJP ticket sale and recruiting ushers for the days Lincoln is at the theater.

The first meeting for School Representatives will be Thursday, January 2, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at North Thurston Public Schools Administration Building. A full list of specific responsibilities for this coordinating position is available in the office. Although the first meeting is not until January, we need so establish Lincoln's volunteer coordinator right away. If you are interested please contact Marcela or Wendy T at 596-6400.



Lincoln Winter Market

The rumors are true! This will be the first year Of the Lincoln Winter Market! Come and be part of this new community event. **Saturday, November 26th 11am-4pm.** Makers of all kinds and ages will set up in the Lincoln gym to sell their handmade goods while listening to live performances. So rally your family and friends and start creating, sewing, drawing, beading, felting or whatever it is you enjoy doing.

How do I apply?

Fill out an application at www.makeolympia.com or LINCOLN website or find a hard copy in the hallway between the office and teacher's lounge.

Vendor Spaces-This fee will benefit OCC but all profits made at your booth will go to you.

Outdoor covered area

10x10 space -\$40

Indoor space

Kids 12 & under only- \$5 for 3 feet of table space, tables provided

Lincoln Family 6x6 space-\$20 you provide the table

Non-Lincoln vendor 6x6 space-\$30 you provide the table

Only handmade items are accepted. We reserve the right to deny applications. Tables and space can be shared at no extra cost. Space is limited, apply now.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Have a table at the Lincoln winter market

Make something to sell-lip balm, felted animals, pouches, potholders . . .

2. Come do your Holiday shopping at Lincoln

This is the definition of buying local, support your school and local crafters! We will have big handmade beauties to perfect small stocking stuffers. Unique gifts

3. Volunteer

help set up tables or organize a parent bake sale to benefit OCC

4. Publicize

Invite your friends & neighbors or hang a poster that you can pick up in the hall near the office. (coming soon)

5. Perform

Be part of the entertainment, share your special talent whether it be singing, playing an instrument or juggling...

***For more information: makeolympia@gmail.com
Tina Olson at 451-6238 or Shanty Slater 878-1895***

The Human Body

By Paul Rocks

We are finishing up our unit on the human body this week. This has been a great unit. Kids range from finding the body repulsive to being fascinated by its workings. Although our main focus has been on the skeletal and muscular systems, we have touched on the topics of senses, nerves, digestion and nutrition.

The human body is an excellent model for teaching the concept of systems. For our youngest students, the concept of systems is about understanding part /whole relationships. Their work is to identify parts of the human body. The next developmental step is to see how these parts are connected and work together. Our oldest students learn to analyze systems in terms of subsystems.

The intermediate students have also been working with the inquiry process to answer questions. We wondered if there was a difference in the distance a ball could be thrown if your elbow was in a locked position verses a free elbow. After making predictions, clarifying our variables and conducting several trials, we found that our joints are really important parts of our skeletal system.

John Tanasse, Lincoln parent, and chiropractor extraordinaire, came to talk with the older classes about the skeletal system, how it relates to muscles and discussed the structures and functions of the human body. Primary students worked on creating a pasta person, the pasta representing the different parts of the skeletal system.

As children think about the human body and see what these parts look like, they start to make all kinds of connections. It is fun to watch children get introspective about their bodies, how our bodies work, where things are connected, and the role of all these different parts. Kids have a sudden awareness all these things are going on inside. With that awareness comes appreciation for this remarkable machine.

If your family would like to explore the science of the human body some more, the Pacific Science Center is having a Life Science Weekend where they will focus on the human body (see the information above). I've heard you get to touch a real human brain! Also, on exhibit at OMSI is Gunther von Hagens *Body World*, 200 authentic human specimens highlighting brain development, neuroscience and more.

Pacific Science Center
Nov. 4-6, 2011
Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (nwabr.org) has teamed up with Pacific Science Center to create three days of demonstrations, interactive exhibits and talks for school children, families and citizen scientists interested in learning more about the crucial role of life science research and its benefits.

Attendance & Absences

Regular, on time attendance at school provides a foundation for academic and social success. At Lincoln we place an emphasis on community and routine. When children are tardy or miss school, they miss out on essential connections and interactions with the classroom community as they start their day together. It is also difficult for teachers to find time to re-teach lessons that students miss.

Parents are responsible for notifying the office of student tardiness and absences. The Lincoln Options **Attendance Line, 596-6403**, is a 24 hour voicemail number that you can call anytime. Please use this rather than our main line for attendance reporting. You may also send a note to the teacher or office. Your notification should include the reason for your child's absence/tardiness, and, if due to illness, please include significant information about the illness, i.e. fever, vomiting, or medical diagnosis of contagious illnesses such as strep throat, or chicken pox.

A student is marked **unexcused** if he or she is absent from school and the office does not receive notice on or prior to the day of the absence. Olympia School District Policy states: When a student reaches 10 or more total unexcused absences during the current school year, the District is required to file a court Becca Bill petition.

Unexcused absences **cannot be amended after 72 hours** from the date of the absence. If you have any questions, please feel to contact Wendy Trevorror at 596-6400.

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:
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.