

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY OPTIONS OPUS

A Community Committed to Learning, Kindness, and Celebration

Voices from the Council

-- Rob Campbell, Options Community Council President

This month I am happy to introduce what we hope to be an ongoing feature in the OPUS: Voices from the Council. We are fortunate to have so many people who give to our children and community in a variety of ways. This month, we hear from Addie Spencer, best known to many of you as our superb Early Release Coordinator.

Cheers,
Rob

Being a parent volunteer at Lincoln Options

--Addie Spencer, Lincoln Parent

Some of my fondest memories include the time I spent volunteering in Lynn's classroom when Sam was in kindergarten. The kids were learning number sense and we got to work in small groups with all sorts of manipulatives -- plastic bugs, colorful cubes, buttons. Back then Sam would want to sit on my lap and our group of little learners felt so cozy. But that was five long years ago.

Now I'm working more and there are more demands for my time. Like many parents, I find I have less time between 8:40 and 3:02 to spend in the classroom. Yet I still value the commitment to volunteer for the school. We all know that without wonderful parents helping, there is no way teachers and staff alone can keep up assemblies, the garden, Spanish lessons and everything else that makes Lincoln Options a special place for our kids to learn.

JANUARY 2013

Friday 11th 12:32
EARLY RELEASE

Monday 21st
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY
No School

Tuesday 22nd
HEARING & VISION SCREENINGS
OCC & COMMITTEE MEETINGS 6:30-8

Friday 25th
EARLY RELEASE 12:32

Monday, Jan. 28th - Friday, Feb. 1st
WASHINGTON CHILDREN'S CHOICE

FEBRUARY 2013

Friday 1st
All School WINTER DANCE
Gymnasium 7-9

Saturday 9th
TSTSCA "Garage" Sale
Gymnasium 9 - 4

Wednesday 13th
LINCOLN SCIENCE FAIR 6:30-8

Friday 15th - Monday 18th
MIDWINTER BREAK
No School

Wednesdays 20th & 27th
ENROLLMENT NIGHTS 6:30-8

MARCH 2013

Monday 4th - Friday 8th
OBSERVATION WEEK

Friday 8th
EARLY RELEASE 12:32

For parents who can't help during the day, there are important volunteer opportunities that can happen evenings or weekends:

- Auction volunteers
- Fund raising helpers
- Early release coordinators
- Options Council members
- OPUS editor

This spring I am looking for a parent or two to take over early release coordinator for next year. It is a fun job that really helps the Lincoln teachers and families. Please contact me if you might be interested in taking on this vital and exciting position. I can be reached at addierainorshine@gmail.com or 705-0879.



Family Dance February 1st

This year's all school Lincoln winter dance happens in the gym on February 1st, at 7p.m. All family members are welcome.

Families are also encouraged to bring a snack for the snack table. Both the dance and snacks are FREE. We will have live music too!

We also need volunteers! It's fun, easy, and a very limited time commitment. Contact Michele Landa at 915-8629 or mland3@gmail.com if you can lend a hand.

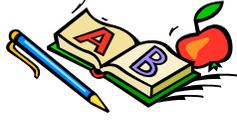


Early Release, Friday, January 25th —Can You Help?

--Addie Spencer, Lincoln Parent & Early Release Coordinator

Parent helpers needed for Early Release on January 25th from 12:30 to 3:02 p.m. We expect large groups and need parents to help kids have fun! Remember, your kids are free when you are volunteering.

You can help with crafts, sports-- whichever activity looks fun to you. Please contact Addie at 705-0879 or addierainorshine@gmail.com if you can lend a helping hand. Thanks!



Kindergarten Enrollment Information Nights Set for February 20 and February 27 Help Spread the Word!

When we asked parents how they had found out about Lincoln Options, 80 percent told us that they had heard about it through word of mouth: parents of students, coworkers, teachers, friends-- in other words, YOU!

Please help us spread the word about Lincoln Options, especially if you know of any families whose children will be entering kindergarten this fall. *A robust enrollment is the key to keeping Lincoln a viable alternative school.* See details below about how you can help.

Enrollment Information Nights will be February 20 and February 27, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., in the Lincoln Cafeteria. Attendance at one of these meetings is required to participate in the lottery for admittance to Lincoln. Childcare will be provided.

During the Enrollment Information Night, parents will learn more about the Options program, philosophy and parent involvement opportunities. They also will learn about the lottery process, Lincoln's unique way of accepting students who live outside the Lincoln service area.

Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT almost impossible to get into Lincoln. Usually most-- and sometimes all-- kindergartners who live in the Olympia School District are accepted and enrolled in the Options program. Enrollment is guaranteed for students who live in the Lincoln service area. The lottery is a way to ensure that all families outside the Lincoln service area have an equal chance of admittance.

We all love Lincoln Options and know that is a unique school offering multi-age classrooms where social, emotional, and academic growth are equally valued, and where cooperation, social justice, and sustainability are taught and practiced. Now's the time to let others know exactly why we have our children enrolled here.



Auction Team News

The Auction Team's next meeting is Tuesday, January 22th at 7 p.m. in the staff room. Your help and energy would be greatly appreciated!

Procurement and Training: On January 8th the Auction team met to stuff "procurement" letters into envelopes. These letters will be sent to local organizations and businesses to ask them for donations.

Community Donations: We have a list of organizations and businesses that have donated to the Auction in past years and now is a good time to expand the list. If you know of local organizations or businesses that might be able to donate, please let us know and we will add them to the call list and send them a procurement letter.

Catering ideas: The Auction Team is seeking significant catering contributions from local restaurants to support the dinner on Auction night. We are looking for catering such as pasta plates or appetizers to serve 300! If you know people from local restaurants that you think might be interested, please provide the details to Bradley (Auction Team Chair).

Volunteer: The auction team needs volunteers to help out before and during the auction in the cafeteria, in the gym, etc. Please sign up for whatever you can do. Some parents have already said they will bake and help at the dessert table: Thanks!

Share your knowledge: If you worked on the auction in past years and have any of the materials, banners, the "how to" manual, etc., now would be a good time to let the auction team know.

Class Auction Items: Following tradition, each class is asked to work on an item or items to donate to the auction. Please confer with your class fundraising rep, class rep and teacher and start thinking about possible projects (e.g. build something, make greeting cards, the ideas are endless...).

More Information? If you can help regarding any of the items above, please contact Auction Chair, Bradley Naragon: bradley.naragon@gmail.com. Keep up to date by going to the auction web site: http://www.lincolnoptions.org/?page_id=699



***Find a Treasure and Support Escuela Ruben Dario
Used Goods Sale February 9th from 9-4***

The Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association's (TSTSCA) annual benefit sale is Saturday, February 9th beginning at 9 a.m. in the Lincoln gym.

TSTSCA depends on and appreciates the work of Lincoln families and staff to make this event happen each year. Please consider donating, volunteering, shopping... Or all three!

Your donations, which are tax deductible, and purchases support the work TSTSCA does in Santo Tomás: Scholarships, a school library and a school lunch program at Lincoln's sister school, Escuela Ruben Dario. Proceeds also help support delegations TSTSCA brings from Santo Tomás to visit Olympia. Remember Ruben Dario teachers Martha Lazo and Heylin Amarely Lopez who visited Lincoln last spring?

Donations of good quality second-hand items are gratefully accepted from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday the 8th; bring them to the Lincoln gym during those hours. For questions contact Maureen Hill at maureenh313@comcast.net or 786-9505.

Adult and teen volunteers are needed for Friday evening set up, during the event and to help clean up afterward. To volunteer or find out more, contact Susan Kavanaugh at susan@kavanaugh.com



Washington Children's Choice Awards

-- Donna Dannenmiller, Teacher Librarian

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award – Jan 28-Feb 8

The WCCPBA is selected annually, by Washington State's students, who vote for this award through their local teacher-librarians. It has been a yearly tradition, of the **Murray family (Randy, Suzanne, and Emily)**, to donate all 20 picture book nominees to our library. Each year, at Emily's June birthday party, they have requested that Emily be given these books as presents. Inside the front cover of each book, Suzanne affixes the birthday card that came with the book. Emily loves to be read to and enjoys these treasured stories before they are put into the library.

These 20 nominated books are read to Lincoln students every morning for two weeks, around this time of the year. The unique thing about this is that teachers divide up their students and send them off to other classrooms to hear the stories in a multiage grouping from K-5. So each morning, teachers get to read a great story or two to a mix of children, some of whom they have never met, and now get to know a little better. Kids eventually vote for their favorite book during one of their class times in the library. The results of the entire state votes are tallied in April. Last year, the 2012 winner was ***The Little Pink Pup*** by Johanna Kerby. This is a true story about a runt-of-the-litter piglet who is ignored by his own family but thrives when adopted by a loving dachshund mother. Come in and check it out.

Thank you to the Murray family for this amazing tradition of supporting our library all these years that Emily has been with us!!

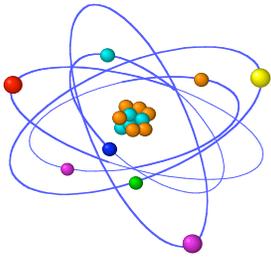
Sasquatch Award

The Sasquatch Award is given to a chapter book written for grades 4-8. The award winner is also selected by children of Washington State in the spring of each year. Donna introduces these 12 nominees to the students during their class library times. Students must read at least two of the nominees in order to participate in the voting. Last year, the 2012 winner was ***Nerds: National Espionage, Rescue and Defense Society*** (Book One) by Michael Buckley...a hilarious romp with a group of unpopular fifth graders who run a spy network from the inside of their school. Books Two and Three are already out!

Got Ten Minutes or More to Support Our Library?

Each day we count on volunteers to **shelve/pull books, as well as do clerical or general maintenance tasks.**

You may also see donation book boxes in the hall. This is one clue that new arrivals need to be sorted and squirreled away for the fall. **We collect book donations all year long!!** There was a wonderful response of eager sorters before our sale, in November. It's time to dust off your Sorting Hats for the New Year, and come on in!!



Lincoln Science Fair

February 13, 2013

Are you ready to learn?

--Paul Rocks, Science Teacher

What is the Lincoln Science Fair?

The Lincoln Science Fair is a *non-competitive exhibition* of K-5 student created science projects. Adults and other students view projects and offer compliments.

What Kinds of Ideas Spark Good Projects?

Projects should be guided by an open-ended question (one that doesn't simply have a "yes" or "no" answer). Students can conduct an experiment, design a field study, use the technical design process, or build a model in order to answer their research questions. This is not a time for students to conduct a literature-based project (e.g. a study of squirrels). But it would be fine to do a field study on the types of nuts squirrels in Olympia eat. Adults can *help* with these projects, just please remember, this is all about kids developing into strong science thinkers.

A special note to 5th Grade Families

I am asking all 5th grade students to participate in the science fair. One of my goals is for all students to have a firm understanding of the scientific method or inquiry process when they leave our program; this will give them a big advantage when entering middle school and in the years beyond. If you think it would be a challenge for your family to pull off a science project, talk to me and we will work out a solution. We have many adults in our community with strong backgrounds in science who would be happy to help.

February 13th @ 6:30 in the Lincoln Gym. Is it on your calendar?

Family Programs from your friendly Planned Parenthood

Dear Options Community,

My name is Jodi Bernstein and I was once, a long time ago, a very passionate Options teacher. (1987-1995 or so...) I was also an Options parent; my son graduated from the program in June of 2001, and just graduated from College this year! I currently work at Planned Parenthood in our marvelous Education Department. I want to make sure you all know about the classes we offer so that Lincoln Option families can take full advantage.

Growing Up -- *All about Puberty* (An evening for Pre-teen children to attend with their parents or guardians.)

“Thank you for being so warm and welcoming.”

“This evening will open up a whole new field of conversations for my daughters and me.” -- *Lincoln Parents*

“I learned a lot about my body and how it is changing.”

“My favorite part was learning about puberty, learning lots of big words, and interviewing my dad.” -- *Lincoln students*

The comments above are typical responses to our interactive, informative and fun puberty nights. They are designed for 4th and 5th grade students and their parents/guardians to attend together. These 2.5 hour sessions emphasize factual information about puberty, and also build in time for questions, family conversation, a little snack and plenty of fun. The Planned Parenthood educator co-facilitates these sessions with a teen Peer Educator whose presence adds a very special element to the workshop. Sometimes students show a bit of resistance to attending *All about Puberty*, but nearly all of them leave smiling, relaxed, and reassured.

Historically, Puberty Nights have been organized by the Options Council and held in the library. We used to have so many interested families that we had to run three or four classes per year! I would love for that to happen once again.

Families are Talking (A workshop just for parents or guardians of any age child.)

Most parents want to talk openly with their children about sexuality, but many don't know where to begin. This workshop is for parents or guardians of any age child and helps participants to clarify their own values around sexuality and to learn how and when they want to communicate their values and other information to their child. We could host a *Families are Talking* workshop at our offices, or at the school, whichever you prefer.

For more information please contact me at (360) 570-6234, or Tim McLeod or Shambricia Spencer at 360-754-1556 or email jodi.bernstein@ppgnw.org.



The Fundraising Committee Needs You!

Become a Classroom Fundraising Representative and help shape the direction of Fundraising at Lincoln. As a member of the Fundraising Committee you can choose to help with a project of interest to you:

Annual Pledge Drive *or* Annual Auction *or* New Fundraising Initiative

The Fundraising Committee typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30. (Childcare is available during this time.) Yet any level of participation is welcome. In other words – even if you are hesitant to commit to the monthly meeting but would like to help...please let us know of your interest.

The following classes still need at least one Representative:

Kari, Lynn, Maggie, Marty, Michi, Roxanne (*we need you!*)

We currently have one volunteer from each of the following classes:

Cara, Caron, Maribeth, Michael, Rich, Wendy (*more always welcome!*)

Please contact Amy Brockman at amybrockman@yahoo.com for more information.

The Olympia School District Education Foundation

Founded in 1998, the Olympia School District Education Foundation provides a variety of programs and activities to make sure every student has the tools he or she needs to succeed - in school and in life. We award *grants to teachers* to try innovative new curriculum, replace aging equipment or introduce children to new hands-on experiences; fund the *Principals Emergency Checkbook Fund* that provides a resource to fill emergent basic needs for students in their schools, such as buying winter coats, new shoes, eye glasses or medicine, school supplies; we have taken over the leadership and fundraising for 5th grade *outdoor overnight education (Camp CISPUS)*; and support a major investment in *science and math curriculum*.

The OSDEF works closely with School district administrators and teachers, targeting program support and resources where the need is greatest. Public schools are the cornerstone of our community. To achieve greatness, schools need a supportive community behind them. Donations to the foundation come from individuals and businesses that believe in making an investment in the future of our children. Gifts to the foundation may be made in several ways. Checks may be mail directly to the foundation office at 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Credit card and PayPal donations may be made through our secure website at www.osdef.org. State employees may make donations through the Combined Fund Drive and school district employees may make donations through their payroll deduction plan. The OSDEF also works with individuals and their company's Matching Gifts donations programs. The foundation is a non-profit organization and all donations are fully tax deductible.

Further information on programs or donations may be obtained by contacting the Olympia School District Education Foundation through the website, or by calling the Coordinator, Bev Sperry, at 360- 753-8853.

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. If you have an item that you think should be included, please forward it to Melissa Minjares at opuseditor@gmail.com. You can help by not assuming that items submitted for the weekly Talking Points will automatically be in the *OPUS*.

Upcoming Deadlines:

February OPUS	January 23 rd
March OPUS	February 20 th
April OPUS	March 20 th
May OPUS	April 22 nd
June OPUS	May 22 nd

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 or need to update your email address, please let us know in the main office.

