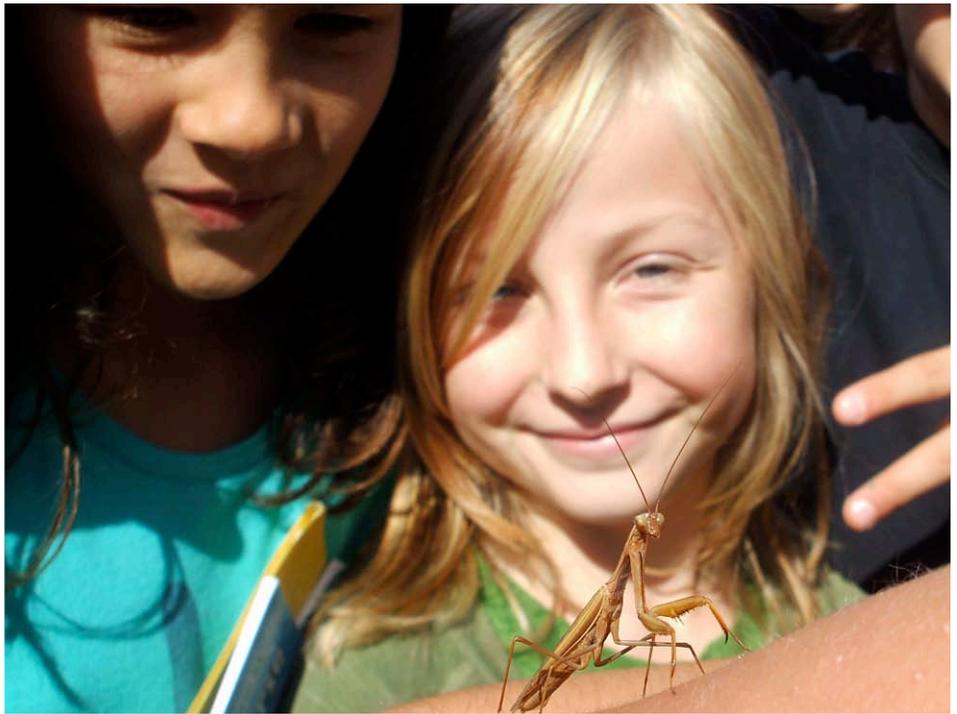


Lincoln Options

Opus

*A community dedicated
to learning, kindness
& celebration!*



February 2014

February

- 3-7 Washington Children's Choice
- 5 - District Late State, No AM bus
- 11 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 12 - Science Fair
- 14 - Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 17 - NO SCHOOL, **Presidents' Day**
- 18 - NO SCHOOL, **Mid-Winter Break**
- 21 - Winter Dance
- 25 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - District Late Start, No AM bus
- 26 - Enrollment Information Night @ 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria

March

- 4 - Enrollment Information Night @ 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria
- 5 - District Late Start, No AM bus
- 6 - Books, Bears & Blankets @ 6:30 p.m. in the Library
- 7 - Inservice HALF day, No Lunch, No Activities, 11:45 Dismissal
- 10-14 - Observation Week, 8:40 - Noon
- 11 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 14 - Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 14 - Lottery forms due by 3:30 p.m.
- 16 - Lottery
- 22 - **Auction**
- 25 - OCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 25-28 - Conference Week, Half Day, 11:45 a.m. Dismissal

Highlights in this Issue

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If you have an item for the Opus please forward it to opuseditor@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month for the next month's issue. Questions? Feedback? Suggestions for improvement? Contact us via email. Thanks!



*Hard at work in the
Lincoln Options Garden*

Options Community Council Greetings

As we enter the New Year it is important to remember that there are many academic and community activities coming up that offer opportunities for your engagement with the Lincoln community. Classrooms are preparing projects based on Movers and Shakers to exhibit talents and lessons learned during the course of the year. Parent help providing resources for these projects is always appreciated. OCC committees are organizing the Winter Dance, Annual Auction and Camp Elderberry. Family participation in these whole school events is also always appreciated. As my Grandmother Gan, used to say, "Many hands make light work." In addition, concerned community members are actively promoting awareness about safety concerns around the potential placement of a cell phone tower at Stevens Field, and advocacy for our children's best interests regarding current trends toward high stakes standardized testing. Look for information and opportunities to participate in discussions, advocacy and to make your voice heard.

Cheers,
Rob Campbell

Everyone is invited to participate in and to support the council. Council meetings occur on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lincoln library. Contact Rob at robert.campbelljr@gmail.com or learn more about the council on the [lincolnoptions.org](http://www.lincolnoptions.org) website. (http://www.lincolnoptions.org/?page_id=36)

Kindergarten Enrollment Information Nights

Help spread the word about Kindergarten Enrollment Information Nights on 2/26 + 3/4!

By far the most important way families find out about Lincoln Options is through word of mouth from parents of students, coworkers, teachers and 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.

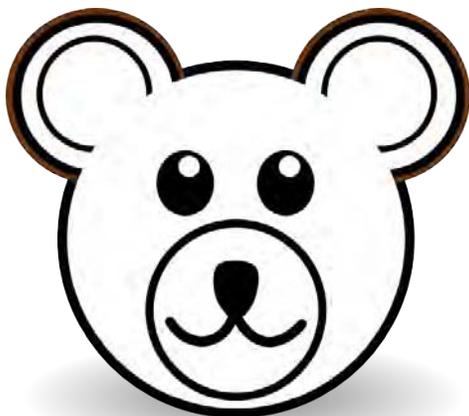
Enrollment Information Nights will be February 26 and March 4, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., in the Lincoln cafeteria. Attendance at one of these meetings is required to participate in the lottery for admittance to Lincoln. Childcare will be provided.

During the Enrollment Information Nights, 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, kindergarteners who apply and 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 and siblings of current students, who are entering at Kindergarten level. 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 it 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.

You can help! The Enrollment Committee is distributing information on the Enrollment Information Nights throughout the community. The committee can use assistance with flyer distribution. Additionally, consider helping to get the word out to potential Lincoln families through conversations and social media. Please contact Mollie or Curt Gavigan at gaviganclan@gmail.com if you would like to assist with flyer distribution, or would like information for electronic distribution. Thank you!



Books, Bears & Blankets

Mark your calendars for **Books, Bears & Blankets**, Lincoln's annual Family Literacy Night on March 6 @ 6:30 p.m. in the library. Parents bring a blanket to sit on and/or pillows to lean against while reading with their children. Kids wear their pajamas and can bring a small soft toy to cuddle. It's fun for the whole family! If you are willing and able to: set up Thursday afternoon, support during the event and/or stay after 8 p.m. to help put the furniture back in the library... Donna will be beyond appreciative!

Science Thinking by Paul Rocks

Many Lincoln families are working with their student(s) on a project for this year's science fair. These projects are a great way for students to explore deeper, more critical ways of thinking. The higher-level thinking skills listed below apply to all subject areas, and are used to make deeper meaning and understanding out of our experiences:

Observing
Comparing
Classifying
Sequencing
Finding Patterns
Predicting
Finding Evidence
Summarizing
Problem Solving
Cause and Effect
Analysis

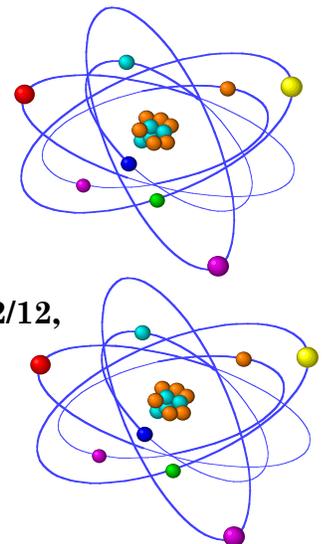
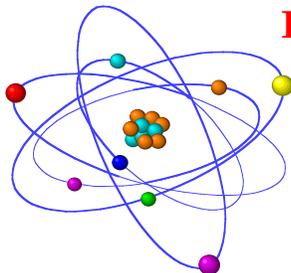


When you are reading, cooking, building, gardening and creating with your student(s), please think about incorporating some of these skills. Thinking skills build on each other. Observation is the foundation to all of these skills and is the easiest for young students to practice.

**Lincoln Science Fair
 Wednesday, February 12
 Lincoln School Gym**

Don't forget your entry form for the Lincoln Science Fair! This year students should drop off projects before school on 2/12, if it is convenient for families. They will be on display for classes to see during the day.

Entry forms are available in the office!



The Musical Mountain

by Michael Dempster

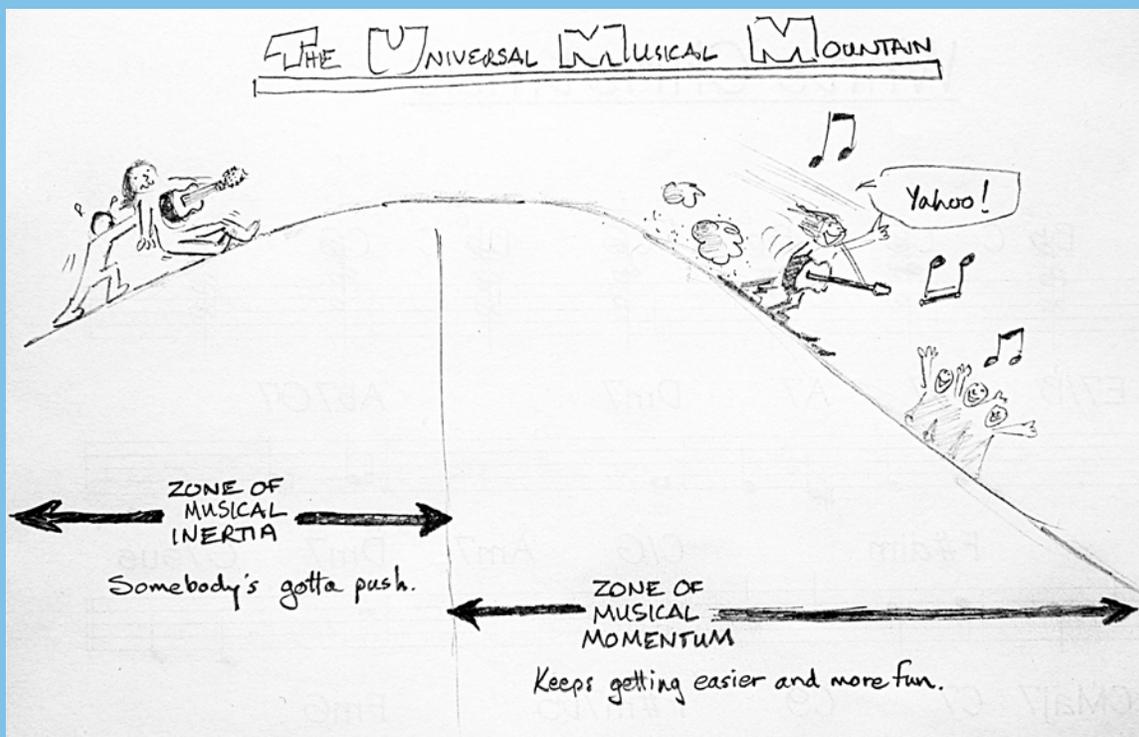
The Opus science cartoons so far have been about physics, the branch of science which studies the behavior of matter and energy. Other scientists study people, a field called Social Science. They study how people behave. Some of the social science fields you've heard of are history, anthropology, psychology, sociology... All dealing with how people behave. So here's the introduction to the first Social Science cartoon:

The Musical Mountain

The ability to play music is a precious possession. But helping a child acquire it isn't as easy as buying them a bicycle. Work on the part of the child is required. It takes more effort than learning to ride a bike. I have been a part of several conversations lately with parents working through the issue of how hard to push their children to learn music.

Eating with a spoon is hard at first... We were all there. Now, for most of us, it's effortless. Playing soul-stirring music on an instrument is possible, but at first it's about as graceful as a one-year old with a spoon. But it will come, for most of us, with practice. It won't come without practice. And as the relationship with the instrument gradually moves toward intuitive and graceful, it becomes increasingly fun to take yourself there.

The cartoon below represents a view of what goes on in learning music. I drew it years ago to help a niece stay committed to practicing. Of course, each child is different, and what's appropriate for each child is complex and unique, and must be weighed by the parent. (An interesting essay on the kinds of deliberations parents go through can be found at <http://musicalresources.blogspot.com/2011/07/truth-about-piano-lessons.html>.)



News to Note

➔ Mark your calendars! The **Lincoln Winter Family Dance** is on Friday, February 21 @ 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. **All are welcome and it's a free event!** Contact Michele Landa if you can help with set up or clean up.

Lincoln Options



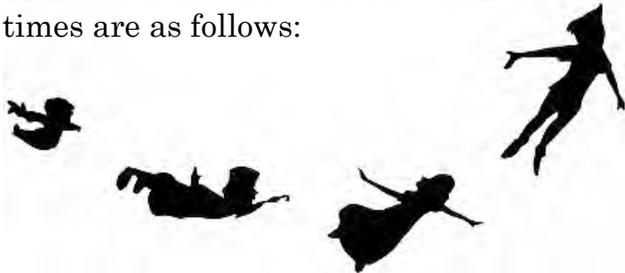
Camp Grounds

➔ Help send our kids to Camp Cispus! **The Olympic Crest Coffee fundraiser begins in February.** Each bag of coffee you buy helps raise money for the Lincoln Options fifth grade trip to Camp Cispus, a rite of passage for our kids and a fun learning event. For more info about how to purchase your coffee talk to a fifth grader today!

➔ **Upcoming Peter Pan Musical Supports Olympia Schools:** The OSD Players, a theatrical group of teachers and staff from the Olympia School District, will perform **Peter Pan the musical!** The performance is at Olympia High School's Performing Arts Center February 20 - 23. This show is a children's classic fairy tale full of incredible music, amazing sets and costumes, and awe-inspiring acrobatic scenes. This is definitely a performance that is sure to please audience members of all ages.

The musical has been an annual event since 1993 and since 2005 all proceeds from the play benefit the Olympia School District Education Foundation (OSDEF); funds are directed toward student activities and programs that enhance learning opportunities.

Tickets for the show are on sale now at the website seatyourself.biz/olympiasd. Performance times are as follows:



- Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m.
- Friday, February 21, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 22, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.

All tickets for Thursday evening are \$10 and tickets to all of the other shows are either \$12 or \$16 depending on your seat location. Tickets may also be purchased at the door before each performance. Group sales and handicap seating are available by calling the OSDEF office at 753-8853. For more information about the Foundation, visit: osdef.org.

➔ Considering one of our district's three middle school choice programs? **Come learn more about JAMS, Alki and MAP** at one of the information nights on Tuesday 2/4 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Marshall Middle School, 3939 - 20th Ave. NW OR Thursday 2/13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Reeves Middle School, 2200 Quince St. NE. You can apply for any of the three programs at these evening events.