

Lincoln Options

Opus

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



April 2014

Calendar

April

- 2 - District Late Start, No AM bus
- 3 - Movers & Shakers Theme Night
(Culminating Event)
- 7-11 - **Spring Break**
- 14 - OSD Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 15 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 19 - Full-Day Kinder Lottery
- 25 - Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 29 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.

May

- 5-9 - Staff Appreciation Week
- 6 - Full Day Kinder Info Night
6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Library
- 7 - District Late Start, No AM bus
- 9 - Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 12 - OSD Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 13 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 14 - Full Day Kinder Info Night
6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Library
- 14-16 - Cispus
- 19-23 - Volunteer Appreciation Week
- 23 - Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 26 - NO SCHOOL, **Memorial Day**
- 27 - OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 30 - **Camp Elderberry**

Issue Highlights

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Keep up to date on Lincoln happenings by subscribing to the LincolnOptions.org website. It's a great resource and posts are updated regularly. Do you have school news or a shout-out about something great at Lincoln to share on the website? Are you regularly online and able to help update the site in 2014-2015? Email opuseditor@gmail.com.



*Books, Bears + Blankets
fun in March!*

Options Community Council Greetings

It was great to see so many families turn out for our most recent Community Café focused on standards-based testing. Thanks to Annie Maclay for all her hard work organizing, setting up and moderating the evening. That word "community" kept coming up in table discussions as the reason families chose Lincoln for their child's elementary school.

At Lincoln we celebrate community in so many ways, and a healthy, vital community requires input from everyone. There are several open positions on the Options Community Council (OCC) for the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in participating please feel free to contact me, your class representative or any of the current OCC officers. Open positions include President, Treasurer, Communications Chair, Resource Committee Chair, External Issues Chair, Garden Chair, Opus Editor and lincolnoptions.org Manager. We all have an obligation to volunteer here at Lincoln, and the OCC is a great way to do that if you are not available during school hours.

Cheers,

Rob Campbell

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.

We are looking for an Opus editor and someone interested in maintaining the lincolnoptions.org site! It's a great way to help the school community from home...

Lincoln Loves to Read

Books, Bears and Blankets, Lincoln's annual Family Literacy Night, filled up the library with bouncing, pajama-clad wee ones and their Sherpa parents hefting pillows and blankets... 197 in all. (Willa Hoey's alum brother, Aidan, even came with his own book, *Great Expectations*.) Mary Rulewitz, former Lincoln parent and new director of Youth Services at the Timberland Regional Library downtown, shared information on family literacy and the library's upcoming programs. Donna organized an impromptu reader's theater of *Book, Book, Book!* by Deborah Bruss, where the parents were the stars! Kids left with huge smiles as they hugged their new book to take home.

(Thanks to alum Taran—formerly of Y-Care—and Marty's class who Helped to empty the library of its furniture, and thanks to all of the amazing parents who stayed after 8 p.m. to put it back!)



Screen-Free Week May 5-11

Don't miss out on Screen-Free Week, May 5-11. Planning ahead can make this a special, successful time for your family.

Screen-Free Week is an international celebration... "Where children, families, schools, and communities spend seven days turning OFF entertainment screen media and turning ON life! It's a time to unplug and play, read, daydream, create, explore nature and spend time with family and friends."

Check out all of the ideas from screenfree.org on the following page, and make a list of your own ideas as a family. After a successful screen-free week it's fun to compare your days with and without screen time. Is there a difference in your time, balance, communication, activities?... Learn more at screenfree.org.

*More
Books,
Bears +
Blankets
Fun!*



LISTEN TO THE RADIO.
WRITE A LETTER. SHOOT SOME
HOOPS. PAINT A PICTURE.
PLANT A GARDEN.
READ A BOOK. VOLUNTEER.
READ TO SOMEONE ELSE.
GO SWIMMING.
MAKE A PUPPET SHOW.
REDECORATE YOUR HOUSE.
MAKE COOKIES. PLAY TAG.
HAVE A GARAGE SALE.
FLY A KITE. GO FOR A HIKE.
PLAY CARDS. MAKE A FORT.
HAVE A DANCE PARTY.
START A ROCK BAND.
BIKE RIDE. WRITE A PLAY.
VISIT THE ZOO.

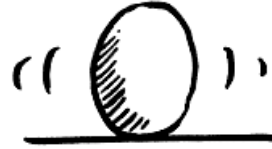
**WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR
NATIONAL SCREEN-FREE WEEK?**



APRIL 30-MAY 06 2012
SCREENFREE.ORG



The Grand Eggsperiment by Michael Dempster



At our March 20th assembly, just before the spring equinox, Paul Rocks and I discussed with kids the theory that eggs can be balanced on one end at the equinoxes (the other equinox is in the fall, on September 22nd this year). We invited kids to participate in testing this idea. The theory is that the ability of an egg to balance is enhanced by the sort of balanced position reached by the Earth at the equinoxes on its trip around the Sun, half way between the summer solstice and the winter solstice, and visa-versa; the only times when all places on the planet have about the same amount of daylight and darkness. (Equinox is from the Latin, aequi=equal, noct=night.)

Humans are curious creatures. We want to know why things happen the way they do. Sometimes it's like an itch... We're not satisfied until we scratch it. We don't like the itch of not knowing, which gives us a vigorous appetite for explanations. Sometimes when we want to know why something happens, the answer is obvious... Like, why is my bike tire flat? Oh! There's a nail in it! I get it!



But at other times, the answer is not obvious. Why an egg balances is a little mysterious. Sometimes, if someone suggests a reason that sounds appealing, there's a part of us that wants that to be the real reason. It scratches the itch. In a way, it sounds like it kind of makes sense, that things balance better on the Equinox because the Earth is in a kind of balanced position.

But the willingness to believe an explanation like that, because it sounds good, or feels good, can actually result in us moving farther from understanding what's really going on!

In experiments conducted in several classrooms and with families at home, some eggs indeed balanced on the equinox! Success!

But wait! The experimental design required that the eggs be tested on days other than the equinox. And it turned out that the same eggs also balanced on other days! The equinox didn't seem to make any difference!



The Grand Eggsperiment, *continued*

Truth to tell, there is something else behind the mystery of whether eggs can balance: It is actually the pattern of bumps and dimples on the end of the eggshell. These bumps vary greatly from egg to egg. Some eggs have almost none, but with a few eggs, the bumps are in just the right place and just the right size to make it possible to balance the egg on end, regardless of what day of the year it is. Check out the close-up photo of Egg #9, which balanced in Maggie's math group on a day that wasn't the equinox: *see the bumps?* That's why some eggs can balance on a smooth hard surface. Paul and I will be explaining this to kids during the early part of April.



The equinox hypothesis had a compelling feel to it (I overheard a kid in Maggie's group, on the equinox, say, "Wow! I don't think I could fall over if I tried!") But the truth, revealed by experiment, proved it wrong.

I like this experiment because it illuminates our human tendency to attach "belief" to plausible sounding explanations for mysterious things. Humans invented science roughly over the last three thousand years to give us more dependable answers about what's going on in our world than can be found through belief based on how comfortable or beautiful or plausible someone's explanation is.

Science is the human tool we have all inherited to provide highly dependable answers to difficult questions. It's not always right, but its method ensures that it keeps self-correcting and inching closer and closer toward more accurate explanations of what's going on.



For our part, we need to show up with the willingness to let the itch of not knowing for sure hang around for a while, without yielding to the temptation to grab a feeling of certainty by latching on to an idea whose strongest claim to be correct is that it sounds and feels elegant. It could be elegant, but wrong, like the ability of the equinoxes to influence whether I can balance an egg.

Spring Events at Lincoln: Mark Your Calendars! *by Paul Rocks*

As the Northern Hemisphere receives increasingly more daylight, it's time to think about gardening, bike maintenance and getting outside. Below are two community events that are based in community, tradition and conservation:

Earth Day

On Tuesday, April 22 we will celebrate Earth Day. This spring also marks the 20th anniversary of the Lincoln garden. That's twenty years of kids and adults growing food together! We will start with an assembly at 9:00, followed by a plant sale and a day of service. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of service learning projects: plantings, weeding, painting and garden repairs. If you are able to volunteer on Earth Day please contact Paul at procks@osd.wednet.edu.

And this spring is also time to think about the...



Thurston County Bike Commuter Contest

This May we want to get as many families as possible to participate in the bike commuter contest. For those of you that are new to this event, the bike contest is sponsored by Intercity Transit as a way of encouraging sustainable commuter habits and it runs through the month of May. Andy Rosser (parent of Annie Rosser) is taking the lead on registering Lincoln families for this event. To register visit <http://rosserchiro.com/bicyclecommuter/>. In the spirit of integrated curriculum the contest will support our focus on Movers and Shakers of the bike community, how data generated from the contest can be used for graphing, bike mechanics, simple machines, energy and sustainability. If your student needs a bike, please check in with Paul. Let's fill up that bike rack!

Camp Grounds Table Reflections *from Alex Asbury*

Our fifth graders had a successful experience fundraising for Camp Cispus with this year's Camp Grounds coffee sales! Alex Asbury shared a little about her experience selling the coffee in the Olympia community with the Camp Grounds team and we excerpted some of her observations below:

I brought Felix and Axl down to help sell coffee on a Sunday morning, and was humbled by the generosity and selflessness of the Olympia community. We were only there a little over an hour, but in that short time frame here is some of what we encountered from the local-yocals:

- Struggling college students remembering going to Cispus themselves, and willing to spend ten bucks to help send the next decade of 5th graders.
- Countless people willing to contribute money without accepting any product in exchange and stating, "Have fun at camp!"
- The teachable moment when lectured by someone spouting-off about not selling organic, and sustainability, the environment, etc., then zooming off in a gas-guzzling SUV.
- The dad of a Lincoln alum who was now in college and studying to be a veterinarian, who raved about the Lincoln experience...

This brief experience truly rocked me to my core. Next time there is an opportunity to participate in something like this, I think there is an entirely different level of teaching to be done. I hope the kids who participated were aware and appreciative of the actions of others. Of course there were many with solicitation-phobia who avoided our table like the plague, but we all know those times when we have felt too busy to stop to help. I sincerely hope that going forward I will always stop to smell the... *Coffee!*

Camp Fire Club

A Camp Fire Club for K-3rd grade children is up and running at Lincoln!

For the 2014-2015 school year, the club will be for youth 3 years old through 5th grade! This club meets weekly to explore the outdoors, exercise creativity, learn about community service and gain a sense of belonging while having fun.

Come to an informational meeting and club visit, and learn about Camp Fire and the club program. Bring the kids! Families will get to know one another, discuss opportunities to volunteer and specific interest areas; there will also be an activity for the children. After the informational portion, youth may participate in a shortened club meeting.

Lincoln Cafeteria

April 16th 6:00-7:00 p.m., and May 21st 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Christa at deandchrista@yahoo.com or [360-870-5514](tel:360-870-5514) v/txt. If you cannot make one of the scheduled meetings, please contact Christa or Camp Fire to request the information. Camp Fire Orca: [253-597-6234](tel:253-597-6234) or kbouta@campfireorca.org. Also visit us at www.campfireorca.org and on Facebook: Camp Fire Orca.