



# Lincoln Options Opus

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



May 2015

## Calendar

### May

4-8 – Staff Appreciation Week  
4 – OSD Mtg @ 6:30 pm  
6 – District Late Start (NO AM BUS)  
6 – Full Day K Info mtg @ 6:30 pm  
8 – Early Release (12:32 dismissal)  
12 – OCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
12 – Full Day K info mtg @ 6:30 pm  
18-22 – Volunteer Appreciation Week  
18 – OCC Mtg @ 6:30pm  
22 – Early Release (12:32 dismissal)  
25 – Memorial Day, No School  
26 – OCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
29 – Camp Elderberry (5<sup>th</sup> grad graduation)

### June

1 – OSD Mtg @ 6:30 pm  
3 – District Late Start (NO AM BUS)  
5 – Early Release (12:32 dismissal)  
9 – OCC Mtg @ 6:30 pm  
12 – Last Day of School  
15 – OSD Mtg @ 6:30 pm

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Happy May, Lincoln Families!

The ducklings are hatched and it's MAY! Only six weeks of school and then we'll all be scrambling to figure out what to do with those cute children for six hours a day. Can't wait : ).

**Camp Elderberry** is just around the corner...I hope everyone can join us for a day of fun, talent, community building, and delicious food. **Remember to get your permission forms in by Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.** And to those families who are new to the experience: just come. You will figure it out, or not, but either way you'll have fun!

I just want to say **thank you** to all of the incredible parents and family members at Lincoln that keep things going every day (shout-out to our Camp Elderberry team!). I am constantly surprised and amazed by the talent and generosity of spirit that we have here. The latest surprise for me was seeing Alex Zerbe, Gillian's dad (she's in Beth's class), perform at assembly as the Professional Zaniac. He was awesome—kids and adults were in hysterics watching his amazing physical comedy and listening to his jokes. And he's a Lincoln dad! There is SO much talent here—amazing musicians, amazing gardeners, amazing artists, amazing advocates...the list goes on and on, and we are so incredibly blessed to have you all as a part of our community and our kids' lives.

An update on the Council: we've been working on forming a vision of what our school can accomplish over the next 5 years—the **Options Design for Learning**. The document is in its final stages (thanks to our lead—**Annie Maclay**) and we have 5 initiatives ready to go. Here are the 5 initiatives and their goals—please feel free to give your input (to Annie Maclay, [anniemaclay@gmail.com](mailto:anniemaclay@gmail.com)), and most importantly, think about which of these ideas speaks to you, and which you would like to be a part of over the years that your child(ren) are here at Lincoln.

#### 1. Assessment Initiative.

*GOAL: To maintain and support the Options philosophy by minimizing*



Follow me to Page 3

## Update from Options Council and the Options Design for Learning

*By Jess Revelas*



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standardized testing and instead relying on developmentally appropriate assessment that directly informs classroom instruction. Key components of this initiative include offering educational opportunities for parents around assessment, and advocating for the Options program and its philosophy to the district.

## 2. Experiential Learning Initiative.

*GOAL: To support learning opportunities which allow children to explore their innate curiosity and creativity and to encourage children to see themselves as active participants in life.* The main idea of this initiative is to expand the Early Release program to include activities that support experiential learning, including theme- and art-based activities. We need your help with this one!

## 3. Family Involvement and Community Building Initiative.

*GOAL: To create a welcoming and supportive environment and connectedness for all families.* Some of the ideas that we have to support this goal include expanding the mentorship program, and better coordinating volunteer efforts at Lincoln.

## 4. Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Initiative.

*GOAL: To enhance the education of the child as a whole through social emotional development, physical activity, and play.* This initiative includes building a new playground (YAY!!), increasing access to locally (or on-site) grown organic food, and providing resources to parents and teachers that support the social/emotional health of our kids. There are lots of ways to plug in on this one!

## 5. Spanish Initiative.

*GOAL: Integrate Spanish language and culture into the lives of Lincoln children, staff and families.* As you may have heard, Luis will be moving on to a full-time teaching job, so the Spanish committee will be hard at work finding a replacement and envisioning his or her role here at Lincoln. Some of the exciting goals of this initiative include increasing the use of Spanish in day-to-day activities at Lincoln, strengthening our relationship with our sister school in Ruben Dario, and inviting families to participate in learning about Spanish language and culture.

These are all great things to work on—think about what *your* strength or talent is and how you can share it with our community and especially, with our kids.

Much love,  
Jess



**Friday, May 29, 2015**

## Camp Elderberry Countdown

By  
**Jill Lieseke**

Thank you to all who turned in forms and have signed up to lead activities or help in other ways at Camp Elderberry. As always, we are fine-tuning the many activities that will be offered at Camp Elderberry this year, and appreciate all of your enthusiasm.

Forms for Activity leading were due back Thursday, April 30, but it's **not too late to sign-up for help** in other areas.

We are **still looking for people** to fill the following roles:

- **Potluck Co-Coordiators**
- **Recycling/Garbage/Compost Co-Coordinator**
- **Camp Elderberry Co-Coordinator for next year**
- **Alumni Coordinator**
- **Saturday Morning Cleanup Co-Coordiators**
- **Lots of Potluck Crew members for setup and clean up**
- **Parking crew members for a.m. and p.m. parking**
- **And many more!!!**

Please contact me at [jillieseke@yahoo.com](mailto:jillieseke@yahoo.com) or call/text at 561-4154 for more information on these positions.

You should have already received, via Kid Mail, the large **Permission Packet**. This packet must be **completed and back at school no later than May 11**. A lot is done with the information inside this packet, so the sooner we get it back the more prepared we are. If you lose your form, or if it never arrived via kid-mail, we will be posting them to the Options website: [lincoln.osd.wednet.edu](http://lincoln.osd.wednet.edu). There will also be additional copies in the office and on the Camp Elderberry Bulletin Board.

If you are a new Lincoln family, your mentor family will be calling you to answer any questions you may have about how Camp Elderberry works and what you can expect. It is always okay to contact the coordinator, Jill, with any questions, as well.

Lastly, check out the Camp Elderberry Bulletin Board (in the hall outside the office). There you will find many photos and maps, an overview of the day, and all the forms that have been sent home.

Please contact me anytime at 561-4154 or at [jillieseke@yahoo.com](mailto:jillieseke@yahoo.com).



## A Constructivist Approach to Teaching and Learning

By Paul Rocks

**There are many models for how to teach. One I keep coming back to is the constructivist approach.** Constructivist teachers believe that students construct knowledge and meaning through experiences. When students are engaged in learning, they use thinking skills; they problem solve, and build on their prior knowledge.

Each year I raise ducks. One reason I raise ducks is to connect students with nature. Another reason I raise ducks is to provide children with the experience of observing the formation and development of a living creature. It's about witnessing growth over time, noticing the behaviors of animals, and it allows me to integrate lots of science about something that has meaning to them. When kids are engaged, they start asking questions and doing research. They construct knowledge.

We recently transformed Mt. Lincoln into an outdoor classroom. I started with some modeling and direct instruction in my classroom about the water cycle, mountains, valleys, rivers, tributaries, dams, reservoirs, deltas, and erosion.

We went outside and built watersheds. The K/1 students worked on building streams. The 2/3 aged kids worked on building dams and reservoirs, the 4/5 students became erosion control specialists, with the job of reducing the amount of erosion that happens on Mt. Lincoln. After the kids worked on their watershed, an adult poured water down their valley. The students would then assess their projects and then start redesigning.



Constructivist teaching and learning makes sense because it's an innate human characteristic. Humans are creative, we want to build, learn, and explore. It's part of the human experience.

# Ducks! Ducks! Ducks!



## Garden to Cafeteria Program

*By Paul Rocks*



The garden committee, with Lincoln students, is hard at work connecting the garden to the cafeteria. Each Wednesday Nichole Garden, Ellen Turner, and Zack Holcomb, our AmeriCorps volunteer from the Thurston County Food Bank, spearhead these efforts. Our kids are growing fresh organic greens that feed our community. We also share our produce with the entire school district, and the Thurston County Food Bank!!

## Spanish News By The Spanish Committee

Luis, our Spanish instructor, will not be returning to Lincoln in the fall. He has accepted a full-time position at another school. Luis has spent 15-45 minutes once or twice a week with each class at Lincoln for the past four years. He also offered soccer at Early Release and Camp Elderberry.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Luis for his work with our children during his time here at Lincoln. We are planning a tribute to him during Camp Elderberry. Please join us in offering best wishes to Luis with his new position and in expressing gratitude for his generosity of time and effort.

## Update from Playground Committee



Photo taken 4/29/15 on the Lincoln Playground. A reminder why we need to bust a move on a new playground! This Big Toy is at the end of it's life span.

### PAINTING WEEK OF MAY 11th

Mark your calendars for the week of May 11th. Painting to happen on *May 16 and 17* and prep (power washing) to occur in the evenings of days preceding as weather allows. **We will paint something irrespective of weather as the play shed and gazebo are covered.** We have 3 power washers donated!

**Wish List** (to be brought/picked up on the day-of; we're not storing stuff): Forewo/man, scaffolding, cherry picker, ladders, painting supplies (trays, brushes, tape, rollers, rags, paint remover, etc.), leftover exterior paint, donated landscaping materials, and person-power (*well-supervised* kids are encouraged to come paint). We'll go ~9:30 to ~4:30 each day.

### NEW EQUIPMENT

- A kid-vote is coming up on equipment.
- We're exploring financial support from the South Capitol Neighborhood Assoc.
- We are working through the ODS bond process – thanks to Amy Brockman for representing Lincoln on the Facilities Advisory Committee and to Caitlin Winters for providing comments at a recent meeting. While there are many improvements needs throughout the District we are hopeful that some assistance will make it into the final proposal.
- We're buying a Labrynth stencil with donated funds and will be painting it with donated paint.
- The committee is working to purchase equipment as designated at the Auctions.
- We're getting a price quote about fallen logs we can use in a natural playground setting.
- We will start applying for grants once we've set our desired pieces of new equipment (with staff and student input). **Got writing skills and/or an interest?** Contact Caitlin Winters or Libby Mullins [libbymullins@hotmail.com](mailto:libbymullins@hotmail.com).
- Leaving no stone unturned, we've been in talks with Olympia Parks and Recreation about assisting in playground renovations. The playground is widely used by Parks and Rec for programs as well as informally supporting their mission by serving as a neighborhood park and playground during neighboring ball games.

### THE FAIRY HOUSE GARDEN

We're looking for any stumps/large logs. We have a lead on donated boulders. Together, these are to be used in the fairy-house area outside of Marcela's office. We have an awesome conceptual drawing and will work on building some "starter homes" and plants.

### SUMMER WORK PARTY

We likely will need to do installations during the summer. Please email Caitlin [caitlinbwinters@me.com](mailto:caitlinbwinters@me.com) or contact Sharrone O'Shea or Marcela Abadi if you can help!





# ALL ABOUT PUBERTY

A PTA Sponsored FAMILY NIGHT for parents, caregivers, and their 10-12 year old pre-teens

Join Planned Parenthood educators for an evening with these learning goals:

- **Encourage family communication about issues of sexuality and adolescence.**
- **Provide accurate information about the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty.**

Planned Parenthood has over 30 years of experience providing classes for families. Youth and adults praise these presenters for their ability to make a group feel comfortable when discussing potentially challenging subjects:

- ✓ *“I liked the way information was communicated factually without judgments attached”* (Parent)
- ✓ *“It brought this up in an atmosphere that was comfortable and will stimulate further conversation.”* (Parent)
- ✓ *“I liked that we talked about things I normally wouldn’t talk about.”* (10 year old)
- ✓ *“I liked that I got to learn about how my body is going to start to change.”* (11 year old)
- ✓ *“I was afraid to approach the subject of sexuality and this opened the door to communication.”* (Parent)

**All About Puberty** includes group activities, video, discussion, opportunities to ask anonymous questions, and tips and parent resources for keeping the lines of communication open! All About Puberty is open to everyone regardless of gender identity/expression.

**DAY:** Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 6:00-8:30 pm  
**PLACE:** Lincoln Elementary Cafeteria  
**FEE:** Suggested donation of \$25/family (No one is turned away for lack of funds)  
**SPONSORED BY:**



**Please fill out the information below and bring to the event**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign us up for All About Puberty | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 attached here                          |
| _____ (# of) youth and adults attending                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced cost: \$_____ (contribution amount) |

**Make checks payable to PPGNW**

Student’s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**All About Puberty** is an educational program of Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest (PPGNW). For more information please contact (360) 754-1556

## Wish List for Our Playground

- ✓ Forewo/man
- ✓ Scaffolding
- ✓ Cherry picker
- ✓ Ladders
- ✓ Painting supplies (trays, brushes, tape, rollers, rags, paint remover, etc.)
- ✓ Leftover exterior paint
- ✓ Donated landscaping materials
- ✓ Person-power (*well-supervised* kids are encouraged to paint)
- ✓ Grantwriters

Contact Caitlin Winters (caitlinbwinters@me.com) or Libby Mullins (libbymullins@hotmail.com).

All items to be brought/picked up on day-of installation, we can't store stuff.

### It's our Opus.

If you have an item for the Opus, please forward it to Sarah Clifthorne at opuseditor@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month** for the next month's issue. Questions? Feedback? Suggestions for improvements? Contact us via email. Thanks!



Mark your Calendar  
for  
**2015's Campout**  
**Friday, May 29, 2015**  
at  
**Camp Elderberry**