



Lincoln Options

Opus

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



2015 August & September

## Calendar

### September

- 7 – Labor Day
- 9 – First Day of School
- 9-10 – Half Day K Conferences
- 10 – New Family Mtg 6:30-8 pm
- 15 – OCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 16 – First All School Assembly
- 16-17 – Class Meetings
- 18 – Early Release @ 12:32 pm
- 23 – Class Meetings
- 29 – OCC Meeting 6:30 pm

### October

- 2 – Harvest Festival
- 2 – Early Release @ 12:32 pm
- 10 – OCC Retreat (Sat.)
- 13 – OCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 16 – NO SCHOOL, In-service Day
- 27-30 – Conference Week,  
11:45 am dismissal
- 27 – OCC Meeting

## Welcome to the 2014-2015 School Year!

### In This Issue:

Options Community Council President Jess	page 2
Welcome from Lincoln President Marcela	page 3
Staffing Information	page 5
Assistance Programs	page 6
Camp Fire Club News	page 6
Science Notes from Paul	page 7
The Heart of Volunteering	page 8
Meet Andrea, Dannie, and Steve	page 9
Buddy Bench	page 10
Jasmine Bell Memorial	page 10
Library Notes	page 11
Pledge Drive Update	page 14
Harvest Festival	page 15
Class Potlucks & Work Parties	page 15
The 2016 Bond and You	page 16
Early Release Friday Info	page 18

*Attached: calendar, class lists, daily details, parent participation form, and pledge drive form. **Please read the PINK Daily Details in detail to not miss new critical information!!!***



# Welcome

By Jess Revelas, Options  
Council President

## Welcome New and Returning Lincoln Families!

My name is Jess Revelas, and I'm the president of the Options Community Council. The Community Council members work with Marcela—our fabulous principal—and the teachers and staff at Lincoln to make the Options alternative program a continuing success.

The Council also oversees a budget of around \$30,000. (Last year our stellar fundraising team brought in more money than ever before!) The funds are used for teachers' classroom budgets, our Spanish program, our end-of-the-year campout, teacher training, the Principal's fund for families in need of assistance during the year, and other enrichment opportunities that come up during the year—many of the things that make Lincoln special.

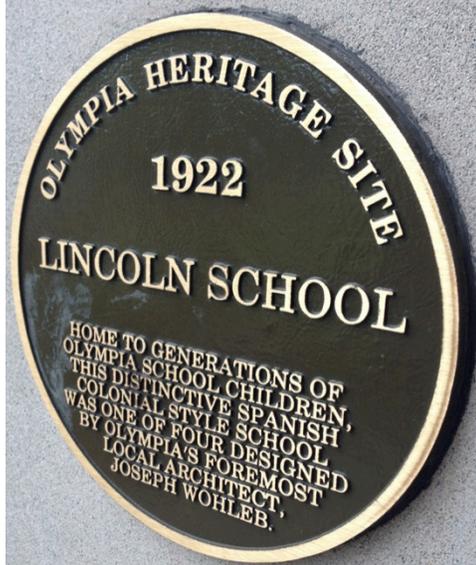
**The Options program here at Lincoln survives and thrives because of your participation at our school.** You can participate by helping in the classroom, being part of the Council, helping

organize school events, hosting a class party, fundraising, or in myriad other ways. A great way to get acquainted is to attend the weekly assemblies in the gym—our parent band leads us in songs, we hear what's going on at the school, and we usually see some student presentations/performances.

So—**if your family is new to Lincoln, we welcome you and are excited to get to know you!** You will have plenty of opportunities to get involved. **If you are returning, welcome back!** I've missed seeing everyone over the summer and I can't wait to see your familiar and friendly faces.

I hope everyone had an amazing summer, and I can't wait to start the journey of a new school year with this wonderful community.

Warmly,  
Jess



## School Begins!

Please note that the first two days for Half Day Kindergarten will be spent conferencing with families.

The first school day for Half Day Kindergarten is Friday, September 11th.

Please read the **PINK Daily Details** in detail to not miss new critical information!!!

# Greetings and Welcome Back Options Families!

From our Principal, Marcela Abadi

What amazing summer weather we have had! Lots of unusual hot sunny days for the northwest. It is even hard to imagine rainy day recess! The garden is blooming with many sunflowers and other varieties of flowers, raspberries, carrots, kale... and promises to produce ripe corn, pumpkins, grapes, and tomatoes in time for students to enjoy and celebrate Harvest Festival. The strangely silent halls are glistening with new wax, carpets are clean, classrooms are taking shape and an excited anticipation for students to enter can be felt all around.

This Opus is full of invitations to join in potlucks, class meetings, classroom work parties, council work... **AND to our first assembly celebration on Wednesday, Sept 16.** We begin the school year welcoming and including new families, offering friendships to new classmates, reuniting with old friends and learning to work and live together in this wonderful school community. Our assemblies offer a forum for creating and expanding on community. They are on Wednesdays from 9:00-9:30. Feel free to join us as often as you can. Speaking of Welcoming...if you are new to the Options Program, I would like to invite you to the **Welcome Information Night on Thursday, Sept 10 at 6:30** in the Cafeteria. Come and learn more about the Options Program at Lincoln and how to make the most of this learning community.

I begin the year with deeper appreciation for the community that supports all of our children...parents, teachers, staff—all of the loving adults who surround them and share in this work. These children will be loved



Follow me to Page

4



(Continued from page 3)

and taught well because of what we do together everyday! We have so much to be grateful for as we begin the year together: children, families, caring and skilled staff, our garden, our wetlands, our beautiful historical school building, endless resources and the opportunity to create a unique learning experience for the children we share. This OPUS brings loving and welcoming news:

### **Learning:**

Andrea, Beth, and Dannie attended a week long **Responsive Classroom Class**. They came back inspired! They said that the learning will enhance and change her teaching. Watch it unfold in their classrooms! I want to thank the Council for supporting and funding this valuable educational experience for our teachers.

**Math** will continue to be our learning focus for staff. We will continue to work with TESC faculty member Sunshine Campbell (Merrick's mom) on best teaching practices. This is our fifth year working in collaboration and we are excited and grateful to continue our work together. We will continue to use Bridges math curriculum, as well as math migration.

Lastly, our staff will attend a 2-day **retreat**, during which we will deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the Options Philosophy. We have added many new staff members and continue to face new State-wide and District-wide standards and expectations. It is important that we, as an alternative program remain very familiar with and unified in the foundational philosophy behind the Options program, while meeting current educational standards. We will be working on curriculum as well as the deepening of our understanding of the Options Philosophy. Again, I want to thank the Council for investing in and supporting this idea by funding our beautiful retreat venue.

We are excited about learning! Watch your children grow as we learn new strategies in academics, in the social emotional development of children and in the implementation of the evaluation project designed to develop more effective teachers.

### **SCHOOL BEGINS!**

September 9th brings all of those smiling children, eager to enter their classroom doors! I love that moment! New friends, old friends, assemblies, garden time, Harvest Festival, recess, Mt. Lincoln, great books, lots of learning, new stories and routines that are all part of the picture....so are you! Join us often. **Please note that the first two days for Half Day Kindergarten will be spent conferencing with families. The first school day for HDK is Friday, September 11th.** I welcome all of you and look forward to a year of shared learning, kindness and celebration.

*In gratitude, Marcela*



### *And now, about our lovingly prepared class lists...*

Our goal and wish is to honor the children, their learning needs, and their friendships in the placement process. With approximately 300 students, this is no easy task. Please remember that our first goal is continuity with the teacher, so whenever possible, the child stays with her/his current teacher.

Each placement is interdependent, which means a change for any one child would cause a ripple effect impact on other children.

Please work with your child and her/his teacher if you have questions, information, or would like to request a specific plan to be put in place to help your child enjoy and/or graciously accept her/his class placement. Each family working with staff for the benefit of all our shared children is the glue that holds our learning community together.



We welcome back Cathy Gudgel, school psychologist, as part time Social Services Coordinator.

And we say goodbye to Taylor Charette. This summer he was offered, and accepted, a new position that allows him to better support his family. We will miss him!

We are still hiring for a ½ teacher, a paraeducator, and Spanish teacher. Let me know if you are interested in serving on the hiring committee.

I am grateful to have such an inspired, creative, and knowledgeable staff. We are so fortunate!

## Our Staff!

By Marcela Abadi

I am very excited about our team this year. Please join us in welcoming Andrea Barranger, Dannie Parke, and Steve Eggelston. Please read their bios in this OPUS. **You will also notice that there have been some grade level changes some of our returning staff.**

Here's our fabulous 2015-2016 staff so far:

- Emily Petrie Half day K
- Caron Stehr K/1
- Jill Terry K/1
- Dannie Parke 1/2
- NEW TEACHER 1/2
- Maribeth Wheeler 2/3
- Andrea Barranger 2/3
- Rich Sikorsky 2/3
- Cara MacMillan 4/5
- Martha Manley 4/5
- Steve Eggelston 4/5
- Michael Stine 4/5
- Paul Rocks Music and Science
- Kari Rigg Librarian
- Rachel Robbins and Jenny Grones, *Special Education*
- Jenny Grones and Cathy Gudgel, *Social Services Coordinator*
- Dan McCartan, *Speech and Language Therapist*
- Charlene Didier-Colby, Cheryl Blanchard, Nancy O'Neil and Cathy Smith, *our amazing team of Paraeducators*
- Dale Rayburn *one-on-one LPN and health room support*
- Cate Fairhead, *District RN (one day per week)*
- Karen Pena and Steve Ball, *Custodians*
- Brenda Young and Leah Pruett, *who serve those beautiful organic school lunches*
- Wendy Trevorrow, *continues as our gifted office queen offering the first smile that greets you at Lincoln followed by any help or information needed.*

# Lincoln's Camp Fire Club

By *Christa Richardson*

**Lincoln's Camp Fire club welcomes new members for the 2015-2016 school year!**

Our club meets every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm at Lincoln, and is open to Lincoln kids and their siblings - ages preschool through 5th grade.

For more information, contact:

Christa Richardson at 360-870-5514 or [deandchrista@yahoo.com](mailto:deandchrista@yahoo.com)  
Chelsea Buchanan at 360.350.9473 or [briscoebuchanan@gmail.com](mailto:briscoebuchanan@gmail.com)  
Camp Fire Orca at 253-597-6234 or [kcombs@campfireorca.org](mailto:kcombs@campfireorca.org)



- **ForKids** provides a **weekend supply of snack foods** delivered every Friday by the Food Bank and distributed to children in their backpacks or on coat hooks. Contact Wendy T. (596-6400).
- The Olympia School District's **Emergency Fund Checkbook** offers funds to be used for many types of assistance, including **school supplies, backpacks, clothing, gas or transportation vouchers**. Please contact Marcela (596-6405) to access this support.
- The **National School Lunch/Breakfast program** is funded to provide **school meals at a free and/or reduced rate** to families with financial need. Your application to this program benefits not only your family but our school too, so please stop by the office and pick up a form if you don't already have one.
- **Holiday Support:** Various types of support are available during winter and spring holidays as needed. If you are interested in this support for your family, contact Wendy T. (596-6400).

## Assistance Programs at Lincoln

Thanks to the Olympia School District, the Thurston County Food Bank, and other charitable organizations in our community, several programs are available to families who find themselves needing assistance during difficult times. Family circumstances can change. These programs are available to you anytime throughout the year.

# Natural Commu- nities

By Paul Rocks



## Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year!

For those of you new to Lincoln Options, my name is Paul Rocks. My primary function at Lincoln is to teach, inspire, guide, and facilitate science learning. I also work with families in the garden and provide music enrichment experiences. I am passionate about connecting children with nature.

This year's theme is *Community*, as a school we will explore what makes a community, how we can build bridges to foster connections, and our place in the global community. I will use this theme to introduce different natural communities, and the roles plants and animals play in those communities. I'm developing lessons around the idea of biomimicry, looking at nature's systems to solve environmental issues.

We can learn about sustainability by going no further than our own edible garden. The Lincoln garden has existed for twenty-one years, that's a generation of students learning about organic gardening! Thanks to all the volunteers that make the garden happen, and those of you that come by each week to weed, harvest, and care for this special place, you truly are summer saviors. If the garden is open during the evening potlucks, come on in and take a stroll.

Looking forward to a spending another year with your science thinkers!

Paul Rocks, Science Specialist

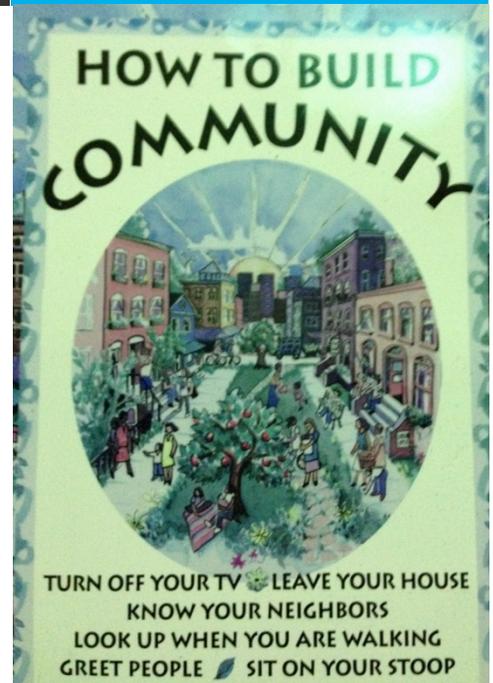
# The Heart of Volunteering: Communication

By Bradley Naragon

How grateful we are to be part of this community, witnessing the dedication and effort of parent volunteers and participation alongside-- and complementing-- the hard work, care and efforts of our beloved Lincoln staff. Parents help out in so many ways, from directly in the classroom to behind the scenes. The heart of organizing parent interest in volunteering starts with the Parent Participation Forms, which you will find attached to this newsletter.

**Why are the Parent Participation Forms so helpful?** How do we use this resource to organize volunteering at Lincoln? As these forms come in, lists are compiled of parents who are interested in helping with committees, workgroups and annual events. All of this information is then passed on to the faculty and council president in the form of a spreadsheet. The lists are also used by those coordinating annual events to help bring together the core groups that make these events successful. Parent Participation Forms live for the school year in the office, filed by teacher/class; they are a tremendous resource for all.

Each year many forms are missing key pieces of information-- parent, student, and/or teacher names, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. For parents with more than one student, please try to identify your responses by student. Also, please help our tired eyes by writing as legibly as possible. I encourage you to fill out the Parent Participation Form clearly, fully and as soon as possible to support the overall start of another great school year!



Please Turn  
in a Parent  
Participation  
Form!

## Andrea Stitt

I am so excited and honored to be teaching at Lincoln! I have been a part of Lincoln's community since my children went to school here. My children, Aiyanna and Sequoya are now 14 & 17 years old. While they attended Lincoln and for a little while after, I also worked as a Para educator in both Kari & Maggie's classes.

To follow my dreams of becoming a teacher, I recently graduated from The Evergreen State College with a Master in Teaching degree. I am endorsed in both Elementary Education and Visual Arts. My first student teaching placement was at McKenny Elementary in a fourth grade classroom. My second student teaching placement was at Evergreen Forest in Lacey Elementary where I taught students Visual Art from Kindergarten through fifth grade.

As a teacher, I believe the most important part of my job is to make a connection with each of my students. I also believe it is essential to create equity in the classroom, honor diversity, and adhere to the interests and strengths of each student. I look forward to building a classroom community with my students and building relationships with parents and family members.

## Dannie Parke

My dream of teaching at Lincoln has come true. My name is Dannie and I am thankful, honored, and excited to be apart of the Lincoln community. Through my own education, I have learned that learning and teaching is more than a textbook or the basic disciplines: reading, writing, and mathematics. My goal is for our classroom to become a learning community where we can work together to learn, question, and wonder!

Some background about me: I have received my Bachelors and Masters from The Evergreen State College (TESC). The learning experiences at TESC have greatly supported my journey in becoming an educator who believes in rich learning through place-based education, social justice, and the building of collaboratively learning environments. I am thankful I chose TESC for my Masters program because I know it has prepared me to be the educator that rings true to my own heart.

What brought me to Lincoln? During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I had the pleasure of working as an intern at Lincoln. 5 years ago I was lucky enough to meet Kari and begin working in her classroom. Kari has supported & influenced me throughout the years. I look forward to working with her as a colleague and other influential staff at Lincoln.

Through my experiences at Lincoln thus far, I have come to understand the philosophy and beliefs Lincoln holds for teaching and learning. My goal is to mesh into the existing Lincoln community and offer a rich, rigorous, and meaningful learning experience for my students.

## Steve Eggleston

My name is Steve Eggleston. This is my first year at Lincoln. I'm very excited to get to work.

I've taught in Olympia for 9 years, all in the 5th grade. I love the energy kids bring to learning. My favorite subjects to teach are math, astronomy, and creative writing. When I'm not teaching, I like to hike, camp, surf, and spend time with my family.

Stop me in the halls and talk about space, and tell me about the book you're reading.

I'm looking forward to all the experiences that come with an amazing school year.



## A Buddy Bench

The mural of Buddies in Children's Literature and buddy bench are dedicated to our recently-retired Librarian Teacher Donna with best wishes from the Lincoln community for a wonderful book and buddy-filled retirement!

A Buddy Bench reduces loneliness and fosters friendship on the playground. Visit [buddybench.org](http://buddybench.org) for more information.

## Loving Reminder: Jasmine Ball's Memorial Sculpture & Garden

Jasmine Ball was a child who attended Lincoln from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Her teachers here were Lynn Smega, Michelle Likes, Barbara Weaver and Rich. She was a spirited child who spoke up for social justice and blessed the choir, and all of us, with her beautiful voice. After her graduation at Camp Thunderbird, in the summer of 2006, Jasmine and her family took a river-rafting trip and had an accident caused by a logjam in the river. Jasmine drowned.

In loving memory of Jasmine, her family has created a special, quiet, beautiful space here at Lincoln for people to take a moment to remember her and the

importance of each child and the love and gifts they bring into the world Jasmine's gift, a garden bench and fairy sculpture surrounded by colorful, sweet smelling flowers and herbs, is by our vegetable garden.

The bench is a place to sit and look at the ducks, the garden and the ever-changing Northwest skies. It is a place to remember all of the people you love and to appreciate the beauty around us. Take a moment to enjoy it and to help your child understand why we have this special work of art, the importance of preserving it and the spirit in which it was given.



See you soon!  
Be sure to  
come in to say  
HI... and enjoy  
our gorgeous  
library.

# Welcome to the Lincoln Options Library

**Welcome to the Lincoln Library!**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who works in the library?**

Kari is thrilled to be moving into a new role as Lincoln's Teacher Librarian! She has spent the past two summers going to school at CWU in Ellensburg to earn her library endorsement. Kari is looking forward to a BIG new challenge teaching library classes, works on collection development by reading, reviewing, and ordering the titles for our 16,000 book inventory, and supports staff, parents, and students in their need for resources. She works Monday through Friday but not on Wednesday mornings. Cathy Smith is our amazing paraeducator supporting the library at recesses and 40 minutes per day, in the afternoon. Kari is excited to work with parent/grandparent/ student volunteers to help her manage our large collection, give clerical support and sort books for our annual Used Book and Toy Sale fundraiser (YES, the book sale will continue). The library is a happy place to spend time...even 10 minutes significantly helps!



Follow me to Page 12



(Continued from page 11)

### How many books can students check out?

While Donna has retired, check out will stay the same. Kindergarteners check out one book and First Graders check out two books. All other students can check out three leisure books, plus three research books. Families may also check out a Family Read Aloud book to read together... that is an additional bonus book. The procedure remains the same, just say the magic words... “This is our Family Read Aloud.” Yay!

### Can parents check out books?

YES! Come into the library to set up a parent account; it’s quick and easy to do. If you already have an account, please come in and update the information, if necessary. We have a Family Resource Library with some excellent titles. The library is beautiful and a fabulous place to peruse.

### How long can we keep a book?

The books are checked out for one week. Students and parents may renew books as long as there is no hold on the book. Call (596-6402) to renew a book using the barcode number on the front cover. You do not need to bring the book in to renew it. You do not have to wait until your class’s library day to return, renew, or check out a book. Students may come to the library any day before school, during recesses, lunchtime, or after school to do their library business.

### When are the books “overdue”?

They are overdue one week after check out, unless they are renewed. If you have an overdue book, you are never “in trouble”... and you are always responsible. One strategy is to renew your books each week instead of letting them become overdue. This keeps the books fresh in the children’s mind.

### What if we lose a book?...or it’s damaged beyond repair?

(Lost/damaged books can add up to our entire year’s OSD book budget!) If you truly believe that the book is lost, you have several options:

- You may purchase another copy of the book as a replacement.
- You may pay for a replacement of the book.
- You may bring in a new or used book that our library can use.
- You may do community service in the library.
- Work with Kari for an option that best fits your situation.



Follow me to Page 13



(Continued from page 12)

### Strategies to avoid losing, misplacing or damaging books.

1. Backpacks are a great place to keep track of and transport books, out of the elements.
2. Designate a special shelf or basket at home specifically for library books. (Parents have said that this is the single most successful strategy.)
3. Return books on time. Long overdue books become lost books.
4. Keep books away from dogs, water (rain), food, and unsupervised younger siblings.

### Can the Lincoln Library Catalog Be Accessed From Home?

YES! There is a link to our library from the Lincoln Elementary website. Students typically start keyboarding practice in grade 3, where they learn to memorize their username and password. Once learned, they can access and manage their library account from school or home. You do not need a username or password to simply view the catalog. Also realize that the catalog is constantly being added to, deleted from and reworked, so that you can find materials more easily.

**I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU IN THE LIBRARY!**



## Pledge Drive

### Consider Your Support of Students and Staff

Hello Lincoln Families, new and returning! With this beautiful summer we are enjoying it's hard to believe that the start of the school year is right around the corner. Teachers and staff are already preparing for family potlucks and the start of classes.

The Options Community Council (OCC) is also preparing to support various programs unique to Lincoln Options. Spanish Language enrichment, Responsive Classroom Teacher Training, Parent and Family education nights, community gatherings, and various other programs are all funded, directly or in part, through the OCC.

**A big part of the Lincoln Options philosophy is active family involvement in the classroom.**

In order to allow more family time and energy to go to classroom involvement there are only two main fundraising efforts during the school year, the Annual Pledge Drive and a spring auction. **Included with this issue of the Opus is an Annual Pledge Drive contribution form.** Families are encouraged to give at whatever level possible with the goal of 100% involvement. Further details are included on the Annual Pledge Drive form.

**Now, before school starts and life gets more hectic, is a great time to consider your support of the students and staff at Lincoln Options.**

Return pledge drive forms at your class potluck or first class meeting. The pledge drive is attached to this packet.

Cheers,  
Rob Campbell  
Pledge Drive Coordinator



## Save the Date Harvest Festival!!!!

**When:** Oct. 2, 9am-12pm

**What:** Entertainment, Food, Activities, Music, Produce Sale from our garden.... and much more!

You are all invited to attend this wonderful Lincoln Options tradition.

# Class Potlucks and Work Parties

Lincoln's tradition of **class potlucks** is a great chance for you to connect with the students and parents with whom you are journeying through this academic year.

Your student can have fun and relieve the stress of a new classroom (or new school!), and you can share with the larger community about how you would like to help this year. We have lots of ways for you to participate.

Please take the time to fill out a **Parent Participation Form** for each parent/guardian to turn in at the potluck.

**Classroom work parties** are an additional way you can connect with our school community and support teachers as they prepare to welcome our students!

Please also make sure you and your student(s) get your **photo** taken in the garden. During the year these photos are posted in the hallway near the office so that we can get to know each other better.

### *August:*

31 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Caron Stehr, Andrea Barranger, Dannie Parke)

### *September:*

1 – Work Party 1 – 4pm (Michael Stine)

Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Marty Manly, Michael Stine, Steve Eggleston)

3 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Beth Kim, Emily Petrie, New ½ Teacher)

8 – Work Party 1 – 4 pm (Emily Petrie)

Class Potlucks (Cara MacMillan, Maribeth Wheeler, Rich Sikorski)

16 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 8pm (Emily, Marty, Michael)

17 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 8 pm (Dannie, Caron, Beth)

23 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 8 pm (Cara, Maribeth, Rich)

# Why the 2016 Bond Matters to You!

By Amy Brockman

In February of 2016 you will have an opportunity to vote for or against the 2016 Bond that will define facility improvements within the Olympia School District (OSD). Note: this Bond is part of a 15 year Master Plan; in 2012 a similar Bond was put to vote that resulted in the construction of the new ORLA building among other Capital improvement projects within the OSD.

For the past 6 months a Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) has been meeting to draft a recommendation for the School Board. In early September the School Board will review this recommendation and hold two Community Forums to get additional citizen input before the February 2016 vote. **I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE FORUMS AS THE OUTCOME OF THIS BOND MATTERS TO YOU AND ALL LINCOLN STUDENTS.**

## Playground and Playfield

I volunteered to be part of the FAC in an attempt to get a new Lincoln playground and resurfaced Lincoln playfield funded as part of the 2016 Bond. And indeed the Committee is recommending that Lincoln's playground be replaced and field be re-surfaced. Yet the School Board needs to actually approve the Committee's draft before it becomes part of the actual Bond.



Follow me to Page 17



Reduced Class Sizes, Improvements to the Playfield, and a New Playground: Why the 2016 Bond Matters to You!!



(Continued from page 17)

And hearing from LOTS OF VOTERS this Fall will help to ensure that improvements to the Lincoln playground and playfield remain part of the long list of Capital improvements that will be included in the 2016 Bond.

(It should be known that the Committee is also recommending that in the future all OSD playgrounds and playfields be considered as part of an educational facility when evaluating needed facility improvements. Shockingly the current Master Plan does not consider playgrounds or playfields as part of a facility unless part of a total school renovation. Hence the poor condition of the Lincoln playground and playfield.)

### Reduced Class Size K-3

The current Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) has spent the majority of its time reviewing data to best meet the Legislative mandate that K-3 class sizes be reduced by the 2016-17 academic year. Specifically, the ratio of teachers to students needs to be reduced. This new requirement, in addition to the inevitable increase in student populations will likely require the building of additional classrooms in some OSD schools.

### What does this mean for Lincoln?

- It could mean the construction of an additional building. However, due to the fact that Lincoln is identified as a historic building, the cost of constructing such a building may be prohibitive. (Yet if a building were planned for construction I would encourage the Lincoln community to be part of the design process – as we are a unique school and may have unique ideas how to best utilize such a space.)
- It could mean that Lincoln will be restricted in its size...allowing fewer students in by lottery. Interestingly, the Committee (without my input) did not favor this option as they felt the general Olympia community so valued Lincoln as an educational alternative that voters would view such a reduction unfavorably. Yet the School Board may feel differently when evaluating the actual construction costs.
- It could mean that additional “team teaching” is used as a tool to reduce the teacher to student ratio. And there are many potential models for such “team teaching”.
- Or there could be another option presented to the School Board before the vote in February – perhaps at a Community Forum!

The 2016 Bond includes many potential projects; I have highlighted a few that directly impact Lincoln families. Many more impact students' experiences in Middle and High School within the OSD. **Learn more details about the 2016 Bond and share your opinions at an upcoming Community Forum!**

### The Dates for the Community Forums are:

- **September 23, 6:30pm Garfield ES**
- **September 30, 6:30pm Knox Administrative Building**

# Early Release Fridays

Why does our school day end early on thirteen Fridays during the school year? This is a special time for our wonderful Lincoln Options teachers to develop curriculum and plan for project-based learning. **Remember, we do not participate in the late start Wed. mornings that are on the calendar for the rest of the Olympia School District.** Note this on your calendar.

Our school day ends at 12:32 on Early Release Fridays. But don't panic! For families that need a safe and fun place for their kids, our parent volunteers put together a wide variety of educational and engaging activities. Please watch for sign up sheets that come home with your student about a week before an Early Release Friday. You must return a form for each student who wants to sign up for an activity. Our diverse community of volunteers ensures that no matter your student's interest, there is an activity they'll be eager to explore.

**Please mark your calendar for this year's Early Release Fridays!** There are 2 early release days that are district wide and therefore have a half-day dismissal time of 11:45 am and there will be no activities offered on these days. Y-Care begins at 11:45 on these days.

Lincoln Options Opus

August + September 2015

## It's our Opus.

If you have an item for the Opus, please forward it to Sarah Clifthorne at [opuseditor@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## Volunteers Needed for Early Friday Release Activities!

What is your talent? Do you have a cool hobby? Share your inner teacher with our students! We always need parent help on Early Release Fridays. If you can lead an activity or please pitch in as a helper. Whether it's double Dutch jump rope or chess, we know there are kids who will love spending Friday with you.

We need adult helpers too! We can match you with an activity that needs extra adult help – like a downtown city bus ride tour, rock wall climbing, or something else awesome! Come help make the afternoon more fun and safer for everyone. And remember, your kid(s) can attend any Early Release activity for free when you are volunteering that day!