

# Lincoln Options Opus

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



Aug. & Sept.

2016 – 2017 School Year

## Calendar

### August

30 – Kindergarten Conferences

### September

5 – Labor Day

7 – First Day of School

8 – New Family Orientation  
6:30 – 7 pm

13 – OCC Mtg 6:30-8:30 pm

16 – Early Release  
12:32 dismissal

27 – OCC Mtg 6:30-8:30 pm

30 – Harvest Festival & District  
Half Day Dismissal 11:45

### October

4 – OCC Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 pm

7 – Early Release 12:32pm

13 – School Pictures

18 – OCC Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 pm

21 – Early Release

25-28 – Fall Conferences Half  
Day 11:45 dismissal

## Welcome!

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*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 Scott Clifthorne,  
Options Council President

## Welcome new and returning Lincoln families!

Dear Lincoln Family,

Welcome back! I hope your summers were full of amazing adventures, and that you've had at least a moment or two to relax and enjoy friends and family.

My name is Scott Clifthorne, and I feel really fortunate to serve as President of the Options Community Council (OCC) - the participatory organization that gives us, the families of Lincoln students, a venue & vehicle for organizing to support our children's learning, growth, and development.

There are many ways to get involved, including

- helping support and maintain Lincoln's amazing garden;
- volunteering in classrooms;

- organizing & leading early release activities;
- attending & participating in weekly Assembly;
- helping organize school events, including Harvest Festival, Camp Elderberry (Lincoln's end-of-year field day/graduation/campout),
- taking a leadership role and/or participating in the OCC;
- and all the fabulous ways YOU will find to support the generous & loving community of mentors and learners at Lincoln.



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Of course, a major component of the OCC's role is fundraising to support Lincoln's fabulous array of enhanced educational opportunities, including the Spanish program, Camp Elderberry, teacher training, the Principal's fund for families in need, and other enrichment opportunities that come up during the year.

In order to support these programs every year, the Council raises roughly \$40,000. To some, that number will sound too small. To others, it sounds unreasonably high. To all of us: it's an outrage that high quality programs like Lincoln Options aren't fully, publicly funded.

However, until our state collectively succeeds at improving educational funding at the ballot box/in the legislature, we need to raise the money ourselves. SO - if you enjoy and/or have a professional background in fundraising, please be in touch!

Above and beyond on-campus participation & fundraising, the Options Council takes the lead in organizing our community in support of alternative public education. I use the word "organizing" because making space for alternative public education is a challenge - a challenge that requires a sustained, organized answer. Even in a town like Olympia, there is constant, widespread pressure to bend the course of public education to a culture of test taking and (what I would characterize as an) over-reliance on metrics derived from over-determined models & under-measured

data. Keeping space for curriculum that respects the autonomous learning path of each of our children is no small feat.

One of the Council's most critical responsibilities is making sure that we, as a community deeply invested in alternative education, stay organized in responding to these challenges. It's also our responsibility to work collectively with Marcela, the Lincoln Options faculty, and all Lincoln staff to articulate a shared vision of the Options program's success at mentoring and nurturing the brilliant, creative humans we send to Lincoln everyday.

There are a million ways to get involved. I look forward to working together with you this year to grow & sustain Lincoln Options.

Scott

[scott.bailey.clifthorne@gmail.com](mailto:scott.bailey.clifthorne@gmail.com)

# 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:**

29 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Michael Stine, Ms. Petrie/Co-Teacher, Carrie Callaway)

30 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Dannie Parke, Angela Hannah, Andrea Barranger)

## **September:**

1 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Caron Stehr, Steve Eggleston, Beth Kim)

6 – Work Parties: 1– 4pm Emily Petrie, Beth Kim 2 – 4pm

6 – Class Potlucks 5:30 – 7 pm (Cara MacMillan, New 2/3 Teacher, Maribeth Wheeler)

14 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 8pm (Steve, Dannie, Beth)

21 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 7:30 pm (Cara, Angela, Andrea)

28 – Class Meetings 6:30 – 7:30 pm (Maribeth)

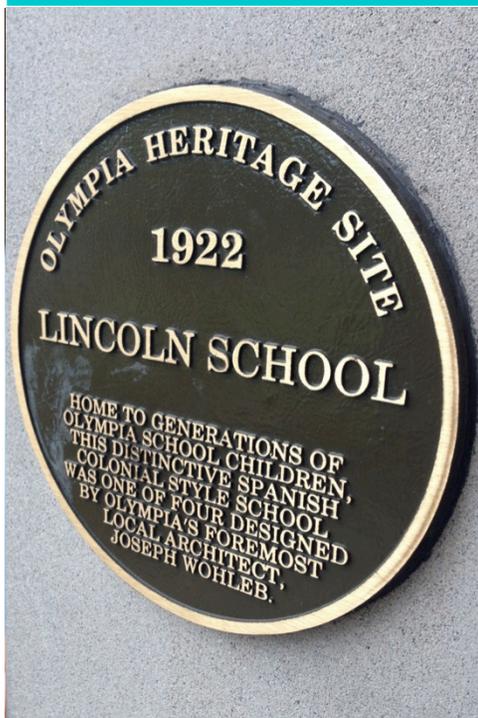
# Save the Date! Harvest Festival!

**When:** Sept. 30th, 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.





## School Begins!

Please note that Kindergarten families will be conferencing on August 30th.

Please read the PINK DAILY DETAILS in detail to not miss new critical information!!!

# Greetings and Welcome Back Options Families!

*By Marcela Abadi, Lincoln Options Principal*

## *Greetings and Welcome back Options Families!*

Summer brings adventures, relaxation, play, longer days, and time to connect with friends and family. The weather has been mixed but has stayed warm.....As I write this letter, it is difficult to imagine a change of pace from summer mode and much less imagine rainy day recess! The garden is blooming with many sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, dahlias, nasturtium, calendula, 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.

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.



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This OPUS brings loving and welcoming news! It is full of invitations to join in potlucks, class meetings, classroom work parties, council work.....AND to **our assemblies**. **This year our assemblies will be at a different time...please watch for the announcement for day and time**. Our assemblies offer a forum for creating and expanding on community. Feel free to come to any assembly. AND 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 8 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.

### Staffing:

I am very excited about our team this year. Please welcome Carrie Calloway who will be joining the K-1 team. We also welcome Angie Kelly, Rebecca Witt, and Devon McCabe to the Paraeducator team. In the next 2 weeks we will be hiring a partner teacher to work with Emily in the all day K-1 classroom. We will also be hiring a 2-3 teacher for Rich's position.

After much deliberation through this summer, Rich has decided to resign from teaching and to imagine a new career for himself. We will miss his energy and leadership for Samba, and his sweet presence in the classroom. Please contact me if you wish to participate in hiring for either of these positions.



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### *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 his/her 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 his/her 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 his/her class placement. Each family working with staff for the benefit of all of our shared children is the glue that holds our learning community together.



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This is what 2016-17 will look like:

Emily Petrie	K-1 in the morning.....afternoon teacher to be announced.
Caron Stehr	K-1
Beth Kim	K-1
Carrie Callaway	K-1 (please welcome her to our staff!!!)
Dannie Parke	2-3
Angela Hannah	2-3
Maribeth Wheeler	2-3
NEW TEACHER	2-3
Cara MacMillan	4-5
Andrea Stitt	4-5
Steve Eggeston	4-5
Michael Stine	4-5
Rachel Robbin	Sp.Ed teachers
Jenny Grones	Sp.Ed teachers
Dan McCarten	Speech/Lang
Paul Rocks	Science and Music
Kari Rigg	Librarian
Cathy Gudgel	School Psychologist
Dale Rayburn	LPN- one-on-one with a student & health room support
Music teachers:	Dan Lundberg - Band and Katherine Sartori-Orchestra
Angie Kelly	Paraeducator
Danielle Hull	Paraeducator
Cathy Smith	Paraeducator
Cheryl Blanchard	Paraeducator
Michelle Landa	Paraeducator
Rebecca Witt	Behavior Tech
Devon McCabe	1:1 with a student
Wendy Trevorrow,	Administrative professional
Karen Pena and Suchart	Custodians
Brenda Young	Cafeteria

I am grateful for our inspired, creative, knowledgeable staff.  
We are so fortunate.



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### Learning:

- **Responsive Classroom Class:** Cara, Michael, Angela, Steve, Emily and Carrie (new staff member) attended a week long course. They came back inspired and excited about how the learning will enhance and change their teaching. Watch it unfold in their classrooms! I want to thank the Council for supporting and funding this valuable, innovative educational experience for our teachers.
- **Professional Learning Communities:** Cara, Steve and myself attended a three-day conference on team collaboration. We have deepened our commitment and understanding of collaborating on curriculum and best practices for learning and teaching together.
- **Reading:** As approved by the Olympia School District last spring, all staff will participate in the new English Language Arts curriculum adoption with Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading training on Monday, Aug 29. We are so excited to continue our work with Lucy Calkins, weaving and integrating all the work we have done with the writing curriculum into the reading curriculum.

Lastly, our staff will attend a 2-day **retreat**, during which we will deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the Options Philosophy, Project Based Learning, and Thinking Skills and Intelligent Behaviors. We have added 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 our understanding of the Options Philosophy.

We are excited about learning! Watch your children grow as we learn practice the new reading curriculum, implementing new strategies for team collaboration, problem-solving strategies in the social emotional development of children to become more effective teachers.

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 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

### SCHOOL BEGINS!

September 7th 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. I welcome all of you and look forward to a year of shared learning, kindness and celebration.

*In gratitude, Marcela*

# Our Garden

By Paul Rocks, Science Specialist



## Consider Your Support of Students and Staff

I want to send a big thanks to all the summer saviors that helped in the garden this summer, especially Chelsea Buchanan for being our leader. The Lincoln garden is many things. It's a place that congers images of children planting seeds, eating, playing, connecting, and discovering. It was designed as a learning laboratory. On any given day we can learn about energy flows, structural adaptations of plants and animals, life cycles, pollination, relationships, change, diversity, water, and food webs.

This is a kid garden, there are forests of sunflowers, and lots of things to nibble on. It's not a demonstration garden, or a huge production garden. It's a place where children build connections with the natural world.

We call it a garden, but it's really a small farm. There are many, many projects. Last spring a Girl Scout group rebuilt our Food Bank beds, deepening our ties with the larger Olympia community. The garden is a source of abundance. It is also a source of generosity, sharing, and social justice.

Thanks to Megan Lanese we now have a healthy group of chickens. Having animals on the property instills a sense of responsibility. We have to take care of other living things. The eggs will be used in pumpkin pies in our upcoming Harvest Festival on September 30th.

**The biggest lesson from the garden is one of community.** The garden brings us together, the work is meaningful and important; we are learning how to grow food, together.

The garden needs lots of adult help. Please consider being on the garden committee, we meet the fourth Thursday of the month, usually in the staff room at 6:45. Each classroom needs a representative to the garden. This is an adult that takes kids out to the garden, plants seeds, harvests crops, and works on projects. Please stop on by, this is your garden, too!

# Meet Carrie Callaway!

Hello Lincoln families! My name is Carrie Callaway and I am thrilled to have an opportunity to join the K-1 team at Lincoln this year. Let me share with you a little about my background. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Martin's College in 2001 and my Master's Degree in Reading Instruction from Grand Canyon University in 2009.

For the past twelve years, I taught at McKenna Elementary in Yelm. During this time, I taught kindergarten for nine years and second grade for three years. Prior to coming to Yelm, I taught first grade for one year in a dual language program at Evergreen Elementary in Shelton. I am passionate about teaching primary students and love to see the tremendous growth that they make each year.

Growing up on Skookum Inlet, I spent a majority of my childhood outdoors exploring the Puget Sound, gardening with my family, and hiking and camping in the Olympics. My parents instilled a lifelong love of nature and all it has to offer. I look forward to sharing this love and knowledge with my students at Lincoln.

## Notice of Nondiscrimination 2016-17 School Year

The Olympia School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with disabilities.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, reports of alleged sexual harassment, concerns about compliance, and/or grievance procedures: Jeff Carpenter, Title IX Officer, [\(360\) 596-8544](tel:3605968544); Kari Lewinsohn, Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, [\(360\) 596-7538](tel:3605967538); and Scott Niemann, Affirmative Action Officer and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, (360) 596-6193. All three individuals may also be contacted at 1113 Legion Way S.E., Olympia, WA, 98501.

## Fundraising at Lincoln

By Hilary Seidel,  
Fundraising Chair



**COMMUNITY  
is the Foundation  
that Sustains Us**

### Consider Your Support of Students and Staff

Like most schools, Lincoln needs families to donate and raise money to supplement our budget and support various programs unique to Lincoln Options. These donations pay for our Spanish Language enrichment program, garden, fieldtrips, Camp Elderberry, and much more. All this costs about \$135 per student every year.

We won't do a lot of individual fundraisers at Lincoln. Instead, we ask you to fund our program through an *optional* program pledge. Every family should give what they can afford. If you give more than \$135, your generosity helps support our community. If you can't afford \$135, that's OK too!

You can pay your *optional* program pledge in a one-time lump sum or in monthly installments through **Paypal** or the **Combined Fund Drive** ("Options CC 315737").

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Questions? Email [hilaryseidel@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryseidel@gmail.com).



# COMMUNITY is the Foundation that Sustains Us

## Lincoln Options Program Pledge

What? A program pledge? Yep. Lincoln’s unique programs cost \$40,000 per year. That’s an average of \$135 per student. Your pledge pays for extra classroom supplies and field trips, professional learning for our teachers, the garden, Camp Elderberry and Harvest Festival, the Spanish program, and many of the small things that make Lincoln special.

Not everyone can afford to pay \$135 per student. **That’s why we ask everyone to give what they can afford.** If you can afford more than \$135 per student, help support our community through your generosity. If you can’t afford \$135, just give what you can - including your time, talents, ideas, and positive energy!

**Two ways to give –**

One time lump sum

- Cash or check (detach form below, include with payment, and bring to office or class potluck)
- Via PayPal at [www.LincolnOptions.org/fundraising](http://www.LincolnOptions.org/fundraising)

Monthly

- Via PayPal at [www.LincolnOptions.org/fundraising](http://www.LincolnOptions.org/fundraising)
- **STATE EMPLOYEES** via the Washington Combined Fund Drive (in the write-in category we are registered as “Options CC 315737”)

Questions? Contact [hilaryseidel@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryseidel@gmail.com).

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### Lincoln Options Program Pledge

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Student Name(s)

Street Address

City

Zip

Email Address

Phone

Amount I am giving:     \$



## 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!*

## 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.

# Welcome to the Lincoln Options Library

- 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.

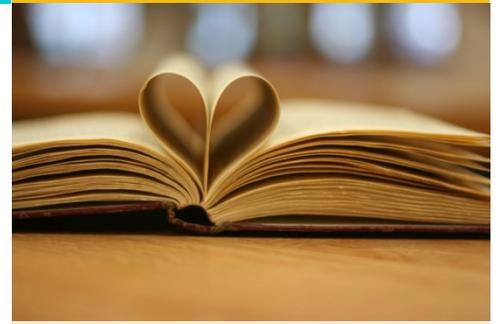
## Strategies to avoid losing, misplacing or damaging books.

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!**



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



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who works in the library?

Kari is the lucky teacher librarian at Lincoln Options. She loves teaching library classes, working on collection development by reading, reviewing, and ordering the titles for our 16,000 book inventory, and supporting students, staff and families in finding just the right resources. Cathy Smith is our amazing paraeducator supporting the library at recesses and 40 minutes per day, in the afternoon. We are excited to work with family and student volunteers to help manage our large collection, give clerical support and sort books for our annual Used Book and Toy Sale fundraiser. The library is a happy place to spend time...even 10 minutes significantly helps!

### How many books can students check out?

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 families check out books?

YES! Come into the library to set up a family 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 families 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?

PLEASE DON'T REPAIR DAMAGED BOOKS!!! We have special supplies and techniques to fix tears, broken spines, sticky spots and other oopses. (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.

# The heart of volunteering: communication

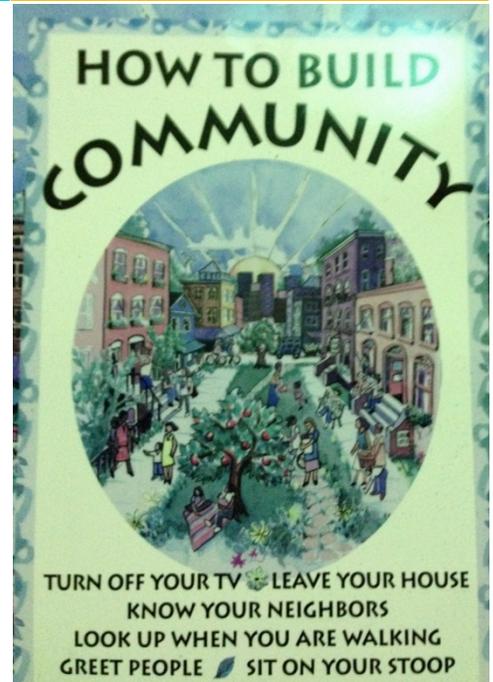
*By Bradley Naragon, Lincoln Options Parent*

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  
complete a  
Parent  
Participation  
form and  
turn it in at  
the Potluck  
or your Class  
Meeting!



# Early Release Fridays

Why does our school day end early on eleven 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. **We do not participate in the District Wed. Half Days that are on the Olympia School District calendar.**

*Lincoln Options schedules teacher collaboration on a Friday schedule. These Early Release days dismiss at 12:32 pm with school lunches served and enrichment activities offered. Please note this on your calendar.*

Mark your calendar for early release Fridays AND district half days:

- Sept 16
- Sept 30 (Half Day 11:45)
- Oct 7
- Oct 21
- Nov 18 (Half Day 11:45)
- Dec 9
- Jan 13 (Half Day 11:45)
- Jan 27 (Half Day 11:45)
- Feb 10
- Mar 10
- Mar 24
- April 21
- May 5
- May 19
- June 9 (Half Day 11:45)

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!**

**DISTRICT HALF DAYS:** In addition to our ER schedule, there are 5 district half-day Fridays with a dismissal time of 11:45 am. There will be no activities offered on these days. Lunch is not served, however you can order a sack lunch for your child/ren through the school office. Y-Care begins at 11:45 on these days. As indicated on the calendar to the left, District Half Day dismissals will occur on: Sept 30, Nov 18, Jan 13, Jan 27, and June 9.

# Gender Neutral Bathroom

We are excited to share an upcoming change within Lincoln Options School. Because Lincoln prides itself on diversity and community, we have realized how necessary it is to make space for our transgender children. We are turning the Adult Men's bathroom on the main floor into a gender neutral bathroom. The common bathroom signs of a person in pants and a person in a dress are outdated (not all men wear pants nor do all women wear dresses) and they also exclude an important student group. Gender Neutral means the the current bathroom sign will be replaced with a picture of a toilet that says "All-Gender Restroom".

This is an important step in supporting our transgender community at Lincoln. Children who don't identify as male or female need our community to be inclusive of them and this is one step in the right direction.

A general misconception about Gender Neutral bathrooms is that there will be misconduct. This is in fact not true. (And if this still a concern, more teachings geared toward consent and respect around each child's body space are a possibility.) Other schools have desegregated their bathrooms with great success. Schools like Olympia High School and Hilltop in Seattle have reported that their students went about using the bathrooms, unphased by the new signs, and that the transgender children experienced a new level of inclusion. We hope you will join us in welcoming this change.

Some resources:

- Transgender students and school bathrooms
- How to be an ally to transgender and gender-expansive children
- Obama defends transgender directives for school bathrooms

Marcela and Sarah Maria Medina (Annani's mom)



# Lincoln's Camp Fire Club

*By Christa Richardson*

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

This club meets every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm at Lincoln, and is open to Lincoln kids and their siblings - ages preschool through 5th grade. Camp Fire is a family club with parent attendance and participation. For more information, contact Christa Richardson, co-leader - 360-870-5514 v/txt or deandchrista@yahoo.com, or Camp Fire Orca - 253-597-6234. You can also visit [campfireorca.org](http://campfireorca.org) and [campfire.org](http://campfire.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.

# Be a Friday Volunteer!

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!



Lincoln Options Opus



August & September 2016

## It's our Opus

Send items to Sarah  
Clifthorne at  
[opuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:opuseditor@gmail.com) by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month for next  
month's issue.

