



Lincoln Options Opus

**A community dedicated to learning,
kindness, and celebration since 1984!**

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Upcoming Events:

The return to school is a busy time, so this is just a short list of a few key events. Please see the new school year packet and calendar links below for a full list.

- Class Potlucks, Kindergarten Meet & Greets, & Work Parties: **8/26-9/3** (see packet)
- First Day of School for ALL STUDENTS: **9/4**
- New Family Welcome Information Night: **9/5, 6:30-7:30 PM**
- Welcome Back Ice Cream Social: **9/5, 6:30 PM**
- Options Community Council (OCC) Meeting: **9/10, 6:30-8:30 PM**
- Class Meetings: **9/11-9/25** (see packet)
- Early Release: **9/13, 12:25 PM**
- Dad's Night Out: **9/17**
- Harvest Festival: **9/27**
- Early Release: **9/27, 12:25 PM**

The full 2019/20 Lincoln Options Calendar can be found at: lincolnoptions.org/school-calendar (Tip: this is a Google calendar, so if you also use Google calendar you can copy events right into yours!). It can also be found on our District page at: lincoln.osd.wednet.edu/calendar.

The 2019/20 Olympia School District Calendar can be found at:
https://osd.wednet.edu/our_district/district_information/school_year_calendar

Please defer to the Lincoln Options Calendar for dates like the first day of school for ALL students and early release days.

From the Options Community Council

By Thomas Serra, OCC President

Welcome new and returning Lincoln families! I hope you had an amazing summer time whether you stayed in town or went on some adventures!

This is an exciting year to be a part of Options Community Council (OCC) because we have the opportunity to expand our community participation. The OCC provides guidance, sustainability and continued support for our children's learning, engagement and development.

Everyone on the OCC comes with a lot of passion and care. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for all of you to engage and make the school run as efficiently as possible, while making it a fun learning environment for our kids.

As the OCC president, I ask you to raise your hand and volunteer. The impact we have is a rewarding experience. You get to meet other parents and actively engage in building our future foundation.

Although there are many ways for you to jump in throughout the school year, current open positions are:

1. Social & Appreciation Co-chair:

Coordinates the winter dance and appreciation weeks for teachers and volunteers. Attends the OCC meetings twice a month.

2. OCC Class Representatives:

Assemble class parent telephone/email tree to utilize during the school year to communicate class and or program information as needed. Attend the OCC meetings twice a month representing needs of the class.

There will be more specific information available during the individual class welcome potlucks. Please let us know your availability and interests are, we will be happy to help you connect with a team leader.

Help us foster life long learners. Parent participation expands Lincoln Elementary's Options Program that holds this community driven alternative foundation. With so much happening in the world and our own community, all of us together volunteer and work at taking steps to make creative learning and social justice a choice, an Option while solidifying Lincoln Elementary as a corner stone of Olympia and a foundation for our kids.

Thank you,

Thomas Serra serra.thomas@gmail.com (360) 528-1748

The **Spanish Committee** meets every fourth Tuesday from 7:15-8:30pm, and is looking for new members. We support the Spanish program in a number of important ways: collaborate on planning the content of Spanish instruction, help to facilitate the connection between Lincoln students and students in our sister school in Nicaragua, plan and host Spanish activity nights, and more. Bring the skills you have to offer the committee (Spanish not necessary).

Please contact Josh Parker if you are interested in getting involved: joshuacharlesparker@gmail.com.

Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

Join us in the playshed on **September 5** at 6:30! Connect with Lincoln families, learn about upcoming school events and volunteer opportunities, eat ice cream! Hope to see you there!



Greetings and Welcome Back!

By Marcela Abadi, Principal

Greetings and welcome back, Options Families!

Summer brings adventures, relaxation, play, lots of time outside, longer days, warm weather, and time to connect with friends and family. As I write this letter, it is hard to imagine a change of pace from summer schedules and even imagine rainy day recess! The garden is blooming with many sunflowers and other varieties of flowers, raspberries, carrots, cucumbers, basil ... and promises to produce ripe corn, pumpkins, squash, 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.

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 on Fridays from 9:00-9:30. Our assemblies offer a forum for creating and expanding on community. 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 5 at 6:30 in the Cafeteria. Come and learn more about the Options Program at Lincoln, ways to get involved and how to make the most of this learning community.

Staffing

I am very excited about our team this year. Danielle Hull will be teaching K-1 full time. Emily Petrie will be supporting K-3 classes with language arts. Adam Brickell will be in the role of Speech and Language Therapist. And finally, we have 2 new paraeducators -- Molly Gavigan and Amelia Brooks. Please welcome them and introduce yourself. This is what 2019-2010 will look like:

Danielle Hull: K-1
Beth Kim: K-1
Carrie Calloway: K-1
Diane Fay: K-1
Caron Stehr: 2-3
Dannie Parke: 2-3
Angela Hannah: 2-3
Maribeth Wheeler: 2-3
Michelle Dinkins: 4-5
Andrea Barranger: 4-5
Matt Samson: 4-5
Michael Stine: 4-5
Emily Petrie: K-3 Support
Sara Eygabroat: Special Education
Jenny Grones: Special Education
Rachel Berry: Special Education
Paul Rocks: Science & Music
Kari Rigg: Teacher Librarian
Adam Brickell: Speech/Language Therapist

Cathy Gudgel: School Psychologist
Angie Kelly: Paraeducator
Nancy O'Neil: Paraeducator
Cheryl Blanchard: Paraeducator
Michelle Landa: Paraeducator
Devon McCabe: Paraeducator
Lily Kinammon: Paraeducator
Erika Krupp: Paraeducator
Molly Gavigan: Paraeducator
Joy Bustanoby: Paraeducator
Daisy Gradilla: Paraeducator
Corrie Gerou: Paraeducator
Amelia Brooks: Paraeducator
Wendy Trevorow: Administrative Professional
Annie Maclay: Office Assistant
Patty May: Behavior Tech
Karen Pena and Suchart: Custodians
Brenda Young: Cafeteria
Joy Fulling: Nurse

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

Learning Teachers' College Institute in NYC is where Lucy Calkins leads the Units of Study in Reading and Writing training. Dianne Fay attended a week long training and will become our trainer and lead us in Professional Development. I want to thank the Council for supporting and funding this valuable educational experience for our teachers as well as Innovative Program Grants that they received.

Project Based Learning: Michael and Michelle attended a week long conference. They will share some of their learning during our staff retreat as well as throughout the year as we work with this year's theme of Social Justice.

Lastly, our staff will attend a **2-day retreat**, during which we will deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the Options Philosophy, review problem solving strategies, Project Based Learning, and Habits of Mind. 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 are excited about learning! Watch your children grow as we strengthen our practice and become more effective teachers in the Units of Study in Reading and Writing curriculum, implement new strategies for teaching Project Based Learning, deepen the value of Options Philosophy, review problem solving strategies and support the social emotional development of children.

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 their 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 their 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 their 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.

I begin the year with a 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 4th 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, an incredible collection of books in our lovely library, 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

Lincoln Options Fundraising

By Michael Santana, Fundraising Chair

Welcome new Lincoln families, and welcome back returning families! I hope you had a great summer, and that you are looking forward to the coming school year. Lincoln's Options Program is truly a unique educational opportunity for our children, and that is why we have all chosen to be part of this community.

Some of the enhanced offerings Lincoln provides for our children include, but are not limited to:

- A science curriculum that allows students access to a garden and wetland
- Spanish, Music, and Art Programs
- Early Release enrichment activities
- Camp Elderberry (our special end of the year celebration - don't miss it!)

To provide these special educational opportunities for our children that no other elementary school in the district provides, we must raise \$65,000 per year more than the funding we receive from the district. That amounts to an average of \$215 per student.

To make up that difference, our school has a 501(c)3 non-profit arm through which the Fundraising Committee seeks family and community support. Our Fundraising Committee (made up of family volunteers, just like you!) asks that all families consider contributing to our annual Program Fund at a level that is meaningful and doable for you.

A one-time gift, or ongoing monthly donation, to our Program Fund allows us to focus our events on building community first and raising money second. You can donate in several ways:

1. **Online at the link below:** *(if you'd like to do ongoing monthly installments, just click the box that says "Show my support by making this a recurring donation").*
2. **Check:** made payable to Lincoln Options. Please use the form available in the office.
3. **Combined Fund Drive:** Options CC 315737 (for State employees).

For more information on Lincoln's fundraising efforts, or to volunteer on the Fundraising Committee or one of our special event sub-committees, you can reach us at lincolnoptionsfundraising@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and have a great school year!

Give 5 for Lincoln!

When we "Give 5" at Lincoln, it means we're giving our full attention, listening, and showing respect and love for our school, staff, and students.

A \$5 per month donation to Lincoln Options is another way to show respect, love, and support for our amazing school by providing \$60/year in sustainable funding to the OCC for:

- Classroom supplies
- Library Books
- The Garden
- Samba
- Harvest Fest
- Spanish Program
- Enrichment Activities
- Camp Elderberry
- 5th Grade Graduation
- And More!

Give Today: bit.ly/give5forLincoln

Please click the box that says "Show my support by making this a recurring donation."



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Welcome to the Lincoln Library!

By Kari Rigg, Teacher Librarian

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 nearly 16,000 book inventory, and supporting students, staff and families in finding just the right resources. She's excited to have Angie Kelly as the paraeducator supporting the library at recesses and 40 minutes per day, in the afternoon. Kari loves opportunities to work with family and student volunteers to help manage our large collection, give clerical support. 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. To renew a book, students and families bring the book(s) in to the library to be scanned. This policy is an effort to reduce the number of forgotten and lost books. You do not have to wait until your class's library day to return, renew, or check out a book. Students and families may come to the library any day before school, during recess, 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. The book will need to be scanned in person to be renewed. This keeps the books fresh in the children's mind. I will also be stopping additional check-outs if books are more than two-weeks overdue.

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.
- 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.

Please Check with Kari BEFORE paying any overdue fines! Email, call or just swing by to check in about what solution works best for your family.

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 2, 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.

Are you accepting donations for the Used Book and Toy Sale?

No, and yes.... Kari is no longer holding the Used Book and Toy Sale. It had become unsustainable endeavor for too few people and was yielding shrinking profits. HOWEVER, we have a free book cart and would LOVE donations of gently used children's picture and chapter books.

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

About Early Release Fridays

Why does our school day end early on several 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's weekly Wednesday Early Release days that are on the Olympia School District calendar.

Our school day ends at 12:25 on Early Release Fridays. But don't panic! For families that need a safe and fun place for their kids, our volunteers put together a wide variety of educational and engaging activities. Please watch for sign-up emails about a week before each Early Release Friday. You must sign your student(s) up in advance so we can ensure we have enough volunteers. Our diverse offerings ensure 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 2 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, District Half Day dismissals will occur on: January 31 and June 5.

Jasmine Ball's Memorial Sculpture & Garden

Jasmine Ball was a child who attended Lincoln from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Her teachers here were Lynn Semega, Michelle Likes, Barbara Weaver and Rich Sikorski. 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, 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.

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; Ken Turcotte, Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, (360) 596-7542; 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.