

Lincoln Options

Opus

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



August + September 2013

Calendar

September

- 2 – Labor Day
- 4 – **First Day of School**
- 5 – New Family Orientation
@ 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
- 10 – OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 13 – Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 24 – OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 27 – **Harvest Festival**
- 27 – Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.

October

- 2 – District Late Start,
No AM bus
- 5 – OCC Retreat (Saturday)
from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- 8 – OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 11 – Early Release @ 12:32 p.m.
- 16 – School Pictures
- 18 – NO SCHOOL - Inservice Day
- 22 – OCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 22-25 – Conference Week,
12:32 p.m. dismissal

Welcome to the 2013-2014 School Year!

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***Attached: Calendar, Class Lists, Daily Details,
District Safety Letter, Parent Participation Form,
Pledge Drive Form***



*Summer's Bounty in the
Lincoln Options Garden*

Greetings from the Options Community Council President

The weather is great and as the pace slows during summer we all have a chance to catch up with friends, visit new places and complete big projects. Now it's time to get back to school, for all of us! As we all know Lincoln is not just any school; it is a place where children, educators and families come together as a community committed to learning, kindness and celebration. Family participation is key to the Options Program! Volunteer time was a requirement in the early years of the program and there are many parents who still have the opportunity to volunteer during the school day or in the evening. This time is invaluable.

The world has changed a lot in the 29 years of the Options Program and we know some of those changes make it harder for parents to volunteer. The need is still there! Please let us know how you can offer time either in the classroom, at whole-school events, in the garden, through work at home, on the Options Council or in your own unique way. It's all a commitment to the future through our caring, active and joyful community.

Cheers,
Rob Campbell

What is the Options Community Council? The Options Community Council (OCC) is the governing body of the Options Program at Lincoln School. The Council also acts as the board of directors of the Options organization. Options is the non-profit organization created to support the education of children in accordance with the Options philosophy, overview, goals and curriculum. Everyone is invited to participate in and to support the council. Council meetings occur on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lincoln library.

Learning:

Michael Stine, Rich, Cara, Maggie and Caron attended a week long Responsive Classroom Class. All of them returned inspired. Rich said, "I wish I had had this class as part of my teacher training... Everyone should go to this class." All agree that this learning will enhance and change their teaching. Watch it unfold in their classrooms! I want to thank the Council for supporting and funding this staff development training opportunity.

Math will continue to be our learning focus within our staff. We will continue to work with TESC faculty members Sunshine Campbell (Merrick and Deacon's mom) and Anita Lenges on best teaching practices for computational fluency and Formative Assessments. This is our third year working with these amazing mentor/trainers, and we are excited and grateful to continue our collaborative work.

Continued on page 4

Greetings & Welcome Back Options Families! *From our Principal, Marcela Abadi*

What amazing summer weather we have had! It is even hard to imagine rainy day recess! The garden is blooming with many sunflowers, cosmos, artichokes and promises of ripe corn, pumpkins and tomatoes in time for students to enjoy and celebrate Harvest Festival. The strangely silent halls are glistening with new wax, and carpets are clean and ready for students to enter.

This Opus is full of invitations to join in potlucks, class meetings, classroom work parties, council work, garden work parties AND to **our first Assembly Celebration on September 10 at 9:00 a.m.** Tuesday assemblies offer a forum for creating and expanding on community. 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. 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 Lincoln and how to make the most of this learning community.

I begin the year with a deeper appreciation for the community that supports all of our children, parents, teachers and staff... All of the loving adults who surround us 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. This OPUS brings loving and welcoming news. In the following pages we have information on staffing, class lists and more!

Learning, Continued:

Another focus this year will be the New Teacher Evaluation Project. The Olympia School District has devoted many hours to understanding this new system and will continue to support principals and teachers in implementing the project. I, personally, am really excited about this new evaluation because it looks at BEST teaching practices. It is very comprehensive.

Lastly, Cheryl Petra will continue to present workshops to the staff on the newest Brain Research and how healthy development, challenges and trauma affect learning.

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 an evaluation project designed to develop more effective teachers.

Staffing:

I am very excited about the team this year. Angela Leonard is coming back from her one year Math Coach assignment at L.P. Brown and we were able to rehire Rich and Cara. Also, Emily Petrie (wife of Seamus, Nora Walsh's son) has moved from Pioneer to join our team. Emily's introduction can be found on page 12. A quick look at our amazing staff:

Caron Stehr	Half day K
Lynn Semega	K-1
Kari Rigg	K-1 (replacing Wendy)
Maribeth Wheeler	1-2
Emily Calhoun Petrie	1-2 (replacing Kari)
Angela Leonard	2-3
Maggie Post-Eliasson	2-3
Rich Sikorsky	2-3 (replacing Roxanne)
Cara MacMillan	3-4
Martha Manley	4-5
Michi Thacker	4-5
Michael Stine	4-5
Paul Rocks	Music and Science
Donna Dannenmiller	Librarian
Rachel Robbins & Jenny Grones	Special Education
Dan McCartan	Speech & Language Therapist

Charlene Didier-Colby, Joanne Cooper, Cheryl Blanchard, Nancy O'Neil and Cathy Smith: *our amazing team of Paraeducators*

Theresa and Steve Ball: *our custodians*

Brenda Young: *who serves those beautiful organic school lunches in the cafeteria*

Wendy Trevorrow *continues as our gifted office queen, offering the first smile that greets you at Lincoln followed by any help or information needed.*

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

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 priority is continuity 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.

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, 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

Class Potlucks & Work Parties

Lincoln's tradition of class potlucks is a great opportunity for you to connect with the students and parents you will be journeying with through this academic year. Not only is it great fun and a stress reliever for students new to the school or moving to a new classroom, it provides the opportunity for you to tell the larger community what you would like to help with this year. Please take the time to fill out a Parent Participation Form for each of your students and turn them in at the potluck. Please also make sure that you and your students get your photo taken in the garden. These photos are posted in the main hallway near the office so that we can all get to know each other better. Classroom work parties are an additional way to connect with the school community and support teachers.

August Potlucks & Work Parties:

- 27 – Angela, Michael, Emily Class Potlucks 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 – Kari, Maggie, Michi Class Potlucks 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 29 – Marty, Lynn, Rich Class potlucks 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 29 – Maggie Work Party 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 30 – Michael Work Party 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 30 – Lynn Work Party 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 30 – Caron, Cara Class Potlucks 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 30 – Kari Work Party 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

September Potlucks & Work Parties:

- 2 – Marty Work Party 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 3 – Emily Work Party 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 3 – Maribeth Class Potluck 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Loving Reminder

Jasmine Ball's Memorial Sculpture & Garden

Jasmine Ball was a child who attended Lincoln from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Her teachers here were Lynn, 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 log jam 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.

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 and these programs are available to you anytime throughout the year.

- **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 district **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)
- **Thanksgiving Dinners** organized and delivered by the Trinity Lutheran Church provides families with all the makings for a Thanksgiving meal. Contact Wendy T (596-6400)

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!

Early Release Fridays

Welcome to the new school year! Please check your calendar and make sure you have noted which Fridays will have early release:

**September 13 + 27, October 11, November 15,
December 6, January 17 + 31, February 14,
March 14, April 25, May 9 + 23, June 6**

Why does the school day end early on thirteen Fridays during the school year? This is the time the wonderful Lincoln Options teachers develop curriculum and plan for experienced-based learning. **Remember, we do not have the late start Wednesday mornings that are on the calendar for the rest of the district. (Note this on your calendar!)**

The 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, parent volunteers put together a variety of educational and engaging activities. Please watch for the sign up sheets that will come home with the kids or can be picked up in the office about a week before an Early Release Friday. You will need to return a form for each kid who wants to sign up for an activity.

Science at Lincoln Options *by Paul Rocks*

Find the backpacks, set the alarms and make lunches because here we go! Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year at Lincoln Options. For those of you who do not know me, I'm the science teacher here at Lincoln. In addition to teaching science I provide music experiences and work with parents and students in the garden.

Recently I was talking with a few scientist friends, and I posed the question, "Why is it important for elementary aged students to be exposed to a science curriculum?" What followed was a discourse about science education. These are just some of the topics that were discussed: science teaches problem solving, it informs your decisions, makes you an objective thinker, encourages you to question and gives you the confidence to think for yourself. And last, science is about understanding systems, and developing stewardship for those systems.

As I plan science experiences for your children my main goals are for students to develop proficiency with the scientific method (inquiry process), that they understand how systems work and that they have knowledge of basic understanding of science content. I also want students to have skills in order to solve problems. Within the context of these four goals, I want students to feel connected to planet Earth, to have an affinity with nature, to leave the Options Program with a sense of stewardship.

The summer provides me time to think about science instruction. I'm looking forward to starting the school year in the garden. *For the month of September the garden becomes our science classroom, where we work, eat and learn.*

This year's all school theme will be Movers and Shakers. I'm excited to explore the men and women that use science for the sake of the common good.

I'm passionate about how the parts of our universe are all connected. *This will be a year of learning about how we are connected to things universal.*



A Year of Science

We celebrate our garden at our **Harvest Festival on September 27**. It takes a lot of hands to make our garden successful. If you enjoy gardening, please consider joining the garden committee.

On **February 12th** we will have our **Third Annual Science Fair**. This is a noncompetitive event where we celebrate science learning; it is open to everyone and **required of 5th grade students**.

In the spring I am going to design a theme around the Thurston County Bike Commuter Contest. As a community, I would like us to think about our energy use and choices. During this time I also want to use our garden to do some intentional learning about plants. **This is a theme about sustainability.**

Growing Toward the Light: Garden Reflections by P. Frisina

The flourishing Lincoln Garden is a humble bit of the greater whole, a reminder of how fortunate we are to share this place to grow together. The garden is here, surrounded by the echoes of our growing children's voices. Some of our children arrive to find themselves feeling very small here. They stand beneath towering sunflowers in wonder. As they grow, we witness them in relation to this space, filling it with not only their growing bodies, but also their awareness expanding. Participating in the garden, I have noticed that there comes a time when we come to feel that this is our place. We grow more than nourishing food and pretty flowers here. We grow confidence, joy, reverence for Earth, connection and unity in this garden. Really?

Really. This previous year provided our community with several instances to witness the power of unity and change, from raised beds in our green house to a new gorgeously crafted gate. Entire classes and small groups gathered weekly to collaborate on projects, from seeding plants to



building a chicken tractor! We gathered for two successful plant sales that were kid powered on several levels! The garden would not be what it is now without the encouraging support of our incredible teachers and our long held relationship with the Thurston County Food Bank. Lead by our dedicated parents, too numerous to name here, we teach each other, share our knowledge... We grow together.

There are stories that grow here too. Stories of people tapping into something pure and calm (and to some) even magical. All summer long dedicated volunteers put their love into the ground here. The garden is spectacular this year; profound gratitude to all those whose hands seek this work. When I walk through our garden, in all of it's glorious production, I see all of those humble bits assembled into something grand. I see the seed of vision, planted by parents of children long grown into life in the world outside Lincoln. I share their passion to get back to the land right here in the city. I feel so grateful to continue to work with the kind, industrious folk of our garden. Along with Co-Coordinator Paul Rocks, Angela Fritz and Nichole Garden, I enjoy being your "Go-To-Garden-Gaia"! Look for us during class potlucks. Welcome, Friends! Please bring us your questions, your ideas, your vision. It is your garden too. I feel excited as I write this, to think of who will enter our garden this year; what will we learn, what will grow?

Welcome to the Lincoln Library

by *Donna Dannenmiller, Teacher-Librarian*

Who works in the library?

Donna (a former Options classroom teacher for 20 years, and now starting her 11th year in the library) teaches 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 Thursday on an 80% contract. She is not there on Friday. Due to budget cuts, Donna's "once upon a time" half day library aide, **Cathy Smith**, was reduced to 40 minutes per day of library support. Since library is open during recesses, Cathy is also the paraeducator recess support during that time. **Donna heavily relies on volunteers (parent/grandparent/student) to 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 my child 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. If your family wants a **Family Read Aloud** book to read together that is considered a **bonus** book. Just say the magic words... **"This is our Family Read Aloud."**

Can parents check out books?

YES! Come into the library to set up a parent account. It only takes a minute. If you already have an account, please come in and update the information, if necessary. We have a **Parent Resource Library** with some excellent titles. Donna also loves to suggest **Family Read Aloud** titles. It is a fabulous library for browsing!

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, lunch time, or after school to do their library business.

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.**

Welcome to the Lincoln Library, *FAQ continued:*

When are the books “overdue”?

Books 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?

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 Donna for an option that best fits your situation.

(Lost/damaged books can add up to our entire year’s OSD book budget!)

Can the Lincoln Library Catalog Be Accessed From Home?

YES! There is a link to our library from the Lincoln Elementary website:

<http://www.lincoln.osd.wednet.edu>. Just click on the link in the right sidebar. You may also reach our library site with this web address: <http://www.library.osd.wednet.edu>. Students typically start keyboarding practice in grade three, 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.

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

Volunteers Needed for Friday Early Release

What is your talent? Do you have a cool hobby? It's time to bring out your inner teacher! We always need parent help on Early Release Fridays. If you can lead an activity or pitch in as a helper please contact Rosie Finn at rosannefinn@me.com or 360-866-6859. Whether it is double Dutch jump rope or chess club, we know there are kids who will love spending a Friday you.

We need adult helpers too! We can match you up with an activity that needs extra adult help, like a downtown city bus ride tour, rock wall climbing or something else equally fun! Spend an afternoon learning something new. Make it more fun and safer for everyone. And remember, your kids can attend any Early Release activity for free when you are volunteering!

The Adventures of Chuck (Continued from Spring!) by Paul Rocks

Each spring we hatch some ducklings as part of our life science learning. Last spring we hatched seven ducks and a *chick*! We ended up calling the chick Chuck. If Chuck was a female our plan was to keep her at Lincoln. Well, over the summer it became very clear that Chuck was a male. Because we want to keep our neighbors happy, we had to find a home for Chuck.

Sarah Wiley, a Lincoln parent, has taken Chuck in. She reports that he is, "Absolutely beautiful; he's growing into his feathers and finding his voice." Thank you, Sarah and Joe, for providing such a loving home. We'll have to plan a time for Chuck to visit Lincoln.



Welcome to Our New Teacher, *Emily Petrie!*

I am Emily Petrie and I'm so excited to be introducing myself to my new Lincoln family! I have joined Lincoln to teach first and second grade in Room 103. I came to Lincoln from Pioneer Elementary where I taught first grade for the past three years. I love my job as a teacher. I get to join with people to wonder... Wonder about the world, about each other and about ourselves. Maybe you're wondering about me? This summer I have kept very busy moving my classroom, setting up the classroom at Lincoln, tutoring and working on a big project for the school I'm attending. I have also been lucky to have some fun this summer: I ran a big race called the Tough Mudder; I went backpacking on the coast; I started my own shade garden and worked in our community garden; I performed in a talent show at my best friend's birthday party; I learned that I love to roller skate; I read every Elephant and Piggie book many times; and I played too many games of Qwirkle to count.

Another interesting fact about me: I first came in contact with Lincoln when I traveled to Santo Tomas with Michi and a few Lincoln alums in 2002. Since then I've traveled back to Nicaragua a number of times and have made many friends at Ruben Dario, Lincoln's sister school. For this reason, Lincoln feels a little like home already. Thank you in advance for your warm welcome. I couldn't be happier to be here.

News to Note:

- **Please join us for our first Assembly Celebration on September 10 at 9:00 a.m.** Assemblies are a time of celebration, community and lots of great music! You are invited to attend each Tuesday morning throughout the school year.
- A printout of your family's contact information will be available at the welcome/check-in tent at your Class Potluck. **Please review, update and sign the Student Information Form** as this is used for emergency contact and school district business. This year you will be contacted in September via email or hard copy (via backpack!) for updates and new additions to the **School Directory**.
- **Mark your calendars for Harvest Festival on September 27th.** This all-school event takes place during the school day. All family members are invited to attend the various activities throughout the morning including the renowned lunch, lovingly prepared by students with food harvested from the Lincoln garden.
- **Keep up to date on Lincoln happenings by subscribing to the LincolnOptions.org website.** It's a great resource and posts are updated regularly. Do you have school news to share on the website? Email opuseditor@gmail.com.
- **The beautiful Lincoln garden photos in this Opus issue are from Paulette Frisina!** We'd love to include more photos in the Opus this year so send them to opuseditor@gmail.com.
- **If you have an item for the Opus please forward it to opuseditor@gmail.com.** The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month for the next month's issue. Questions? Feedback? Suggestions for improvement? Contact us via email. Thanks!

