



# Lincoln Options Opus

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



October 2014

## Calendar

### October

- 1 – District Late Start, no AM bus
- 4 – OCC Retreat (Sat.)
- 6 – OSD Board Mtg
- 10 – NO SCHOOL, In-service Day
- 16 – School Pictures (NEW DATE)
- 15 – ODL Café in gym 6-8 pm
- 17 – Early Release 12:32 pm
- 20 – OSD Board Mtg
- 21-24 – Conference Week,  
11:45 am dismissal
- 22-24 – Clothing Sale
- 28 – OCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 29 – Studio Day

### November

- 1-2 – Used Book & Toy Sale
- 3 – OSD Board Mtg
- 6 – Parent Ed (Math Night)
- 5 – District Late Start, No AM bus
- 11 – NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day
- 14 – Early Release @ 12:32 pm
- 17 – OSD Board Mtg
- 18 – OCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 19 – District Late Start, No AM bus
- 27-28 – NO SCHOOL  
Happy Thanksgiving!

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# Options Community Council Greetings

By Jess Revelas  
Options Council President

**Happy October Lincoln families!** We are now in the full swing of school with Harvest Festival behind us, the days shortening quickly, and the pumpkins ripe for picking. Many of the salmon will return soon, giving us all a chance to celebrate and study this life-giving force of the Northwest. Kids have settled into school and made new friends, adults have made new connections, and we are all being challenged by the new and amazing things there are to learn.

I am so happy about how our school year is going so far! We needed to hire a teacher at the last minute to fill a spot, and **we found a perfect fit for the Options program with our new half-day kindergarten teacher, Beth Kim.** Please read her bio on page 7, and stop by to say hi in her classroom (next to Paul's on the bottom floor).

**So many families have volunteered their time** already: helping teachers, stepping up to be on the Options Community Council, helping with the cooking for Harvest Festival, working in the garden, giving hugs in the hall, and making this community as wonderful as it is. **If you haven't found a way to plug-in to our community yet, there is still lots of time.** A few ways to start are to ask your teacher what they need help with, contact Paul to help with garden, or go see Donna if you can spare a few minutes to help out in the library.

## **Early Release Friday needs volunteers too!**

While you're thinking about how to get involved, plan to stop by for coffee and pastries (thanks to Olympia Coffee Roasters and Left Bank Bakery) on Wednesday morning before assembly in the staff room—it's a great place to meet people and chat.

On September 15, **Lincoln hosted a meeting of the Olympia School Board, and we knocked their socks off!** Marcela made an amazing presentation that highlighted Lincoln's unique approach to education and demonstrated that the Options program was furthering the District's goals. Thank you so much to Madeline Thompson for helping put the presentation together and to Teresa Winstead, our videographer! The Board and Superintendent Dick Civitanich were impressed and let us all know it. Thank you to everyone who came and showed support for Lincoln. We needed extra chairs!

Coming up, on **Wednesday, October 15, there will be a Community Café** in the gym which will kick off the process of revising the Options Design for Learning, Lincoln's 5-year plan. Please read more about the Café and the ODL in Annie Maclay's article on page 10. I hope to see you there—it'll be fun!

**Thank you all for working to build a strong community that supports and nurtures our children every day.** Have a great October!



Conference days are half days this year (not Early Release).

Dismissal is at 11:45 and no lunch will be served. We can offer a sack lunch if you place an order with the office by October 17.

## Conference Week at Lincoln Options

Each year we set aside two weeks for conferences as a time for teachers, students and parents to set goals, reflect, connect and celebrate achievements. During each of these weeks classes meet for the first half of the day. In the afternoon teachers meet individually with each of their students and the student's family to share hopes for the school year and plan for success. The first conference, held October 21-24, is a goal-setting time.

Lincoln Options students are an integral part of these conferences. Please make sure that you schedule a time when you and your child can fully participate. Also, please make arrangements for any other siblings to be happily cared for or entertained safely elsewhere, so that you, your child's teacher and your student can really focus on the hopes and goals for the conferencing student for the coming year. Goals are made in the areas of math, reading, writing and social/emotional development.

The spring conference, held in March, is a time of reflection and self-evaluation. Again, this is a special time for the teacher, conferencing student and parents to look back on early goals and celebrate the learner. It also provides time to re-assess and decide what is next for the conferencing student.

Students at Lincoln begin this conferencing process in kindergarten and continue throughout their time at Lincoln. As children get experience setting goals and self-evaluating, they develop an intrinsic motivation to learn as well as the skills to be a self-directed learner. We look forward to meeting with you!

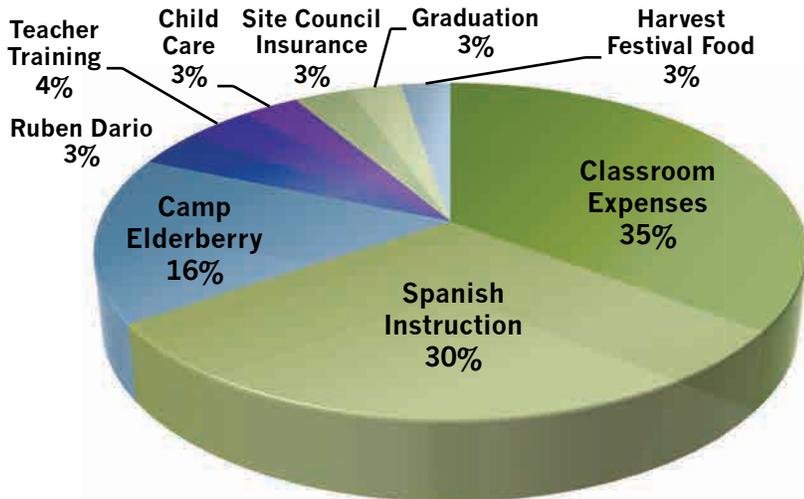


# Pledge Drive

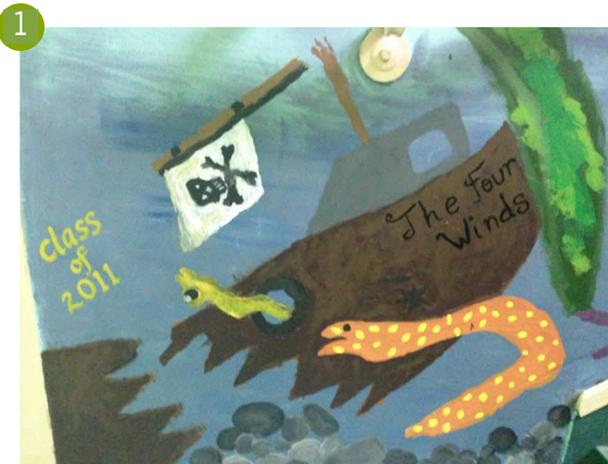
By Rob Campbell

## The Pledge Drive is up and running!

So far this fall we have received over \$3,000, but that is only with 10% of the Lincoln families participating. **Our goal is 100 % participation.** So please give what you can at any level, even \$1, and remember all donations are tax-deductible. **Pledge Drive forms are printed on salmon colored paper and are available in the office.**



**Seen Around Our School...** Can you and your Lincoln student identify these places? Go on a scavenger hunt and then look for answers in our next OPUS.



# Emergent Curriculum in the Lincoln Garden

By  
Paul Rocks



## Learn. Observe. Explore.

For the last few weeks, students have been visiting the garden for their science instruction. This is truly an amazing space for children to learn, observe, explore, and of course, eat.

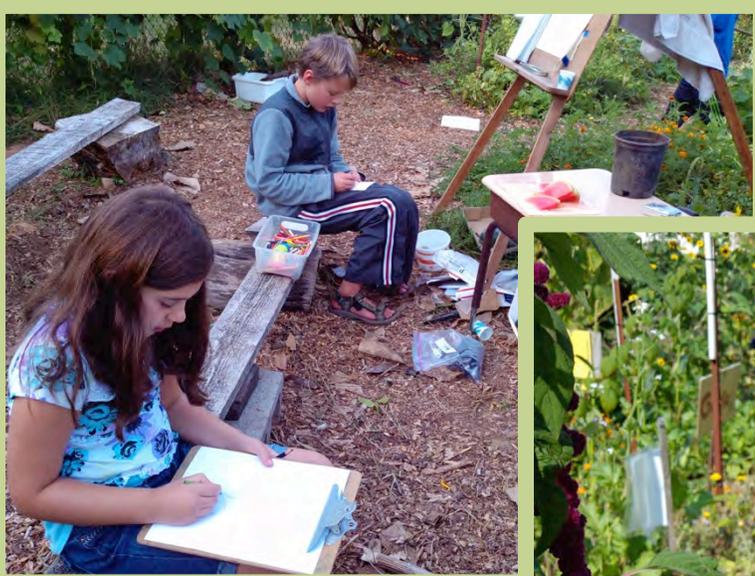
Our time in the garden is divided into three parts, we eat, we learn, and we work. We may snack on grapes, corn, basil, lemon cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelon, and fennel. Just about anything growing in the garden is available to be grazed.

The work we do is based on the needs in the garden: mulching, seed collecting, weeding, harvesting.

Students learn safe methods for using tools and doing chores.

The garden is a wealth of curriculum opportunities. One day we caught a snake, and spent time noticing its physical structures. Another day we opened a birdhouse to get a glimpse of a chickadee nest, this morning a deer ran through the playground, tomorrow might be a lesson in seed dispersal. There is always something new to discover.

The main outcome of all these experiences is that students develop and deepen their connection with nature.



## In The Lincoln Garden

# Children's Clothing Exchange

*By Jeanne Murdock-Zvonchenko*

The autumn weather is on its way, and many families are now beginning to see just how much their kids have grown since the last time they wore their cooler weather things. Luckily, it will soon be time for the **3rd Annual Children's Clothing Exchange**.

Bag up all of those suddenly-too-small kids' clothes, shoes and accessories and bring them in for the Clothing Exchange--those clothes will go to other growing children and raise some money for the Options Program at the same time. The **sale will be held October 22-24** (fall conference week) in the activity room. Come find great clothes for whatever price you choose to donate, a benefit to all!

Starting October 6th, collection barrels/boxes will be available in the hallways to collect your donations. Please remember that all donations must be clean and in good condition. We cannot accept items with stains or holes. If you are able, please bundle/bag your clothing by the following sizes: 0-2T, 3T-4T, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13+.

**We are still looking for volunteers to help out between October 6th-24th.** Much of the prep work for the sale can be done at home, so this is a great volunteer opportunity for families who can't spend time at school during the day. If you are interested in sorting clothing and/or working the sale, please contact Jeanne Murdock-Zvonchenko at [bean369@comcast.net](mailto:bean369@comcast.net).

## Meet Beth Kim

I first walked up the Lincoln steps as a grinning 6 year old on my first day of school in Michelle Likes' class, I had won the Lincoln lottery! I was excited and ready for a new adventure and my journey at Lincoln had just begun. I am appreciative and in awe of Lincoln and the teachers that came before me and I am thrilled to be a part of this community once more. I come from a family of teachers and musicians and I have called the South Capital Neighborhood my home for nearly two decades. I walk down Franklin Street daily with my husband, Eddie, 2 year old, Aria, and 5 month old, Piper. If you live in the neighborhood you've probably seen us on our way to grandma's house or on the Lincoln playground. This community is rich and I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it.

I spent many years managing and waiting tables at local restaurants, and nannying for families in the community. Then my teaching career started in Seoul, South Korea, where I taught English as a second language. I came back and completed a degree from Evergreen with an emphasis in early childhood and child development then proceeded to PLU to receive my masters in Elementary Education. I taught first grade in the Clover Park School District, fifth grade in the Franklin Pierce School District, spent some time teaching Preschool in Tumwater and two years teaching kindergarten at Lakes Elementary in North Thurston. I finally feel home this year at Lincoln. This has been my dream for many years.

I believe education is so much more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. I love to create communities in my classrooms and educate the whole child. I believe families are a huge driving force for a positive education. My mom always says, "It takes a village." And I agree! I love music, art, traveling, reading, being a mom and spending time outdoors. I love to be around children, they inspire me to be curious and free spirited and I love teaching kindergarten.

This last month has been a whirlwind and it has been great. I am so thankful for the supportive staff here and the wonderful families that make up our classroom community. I have been busy getting things rolling in my classroom so if we haven't met yet, please feel free to stop by and say hello.

# Early Release Program Needs Your Help **One Friday** this Year!

*By Annie Maclay*

Please consider volunteering **one Friday afternoon** this school year. **Come play kickball or capture the flag, lead an art or craft project, cook something, play board games or chaperone a field trip.** Parent volunteers make the biggest impact on the sustainability of the Early Release Program. If you have the energy to lead an activity, but need ideas—we can help! **We also need activity assistants.** When more adult volunteers are involved we can open activities up to more children.

Sept. 12th was our first Early Release Friday of the year. I want to extend a huge thank-you to the parents who responded to our “call for help”. Several people have expressed interest and availability for assisting with future early release dates and we had two parents who were able to assist with activities on Friday afternoon.

Volunteering for Early Release directly supports your child’s learning! Early Release was initiated so that teachers would have more group-planning time for curriculum and school-wide events, and the opportunity to share resources and ideas related to instructional issues and needs. It exists because of the collaborative efforts of teachers and parents. Teachers add ten minutes to their instruction time each day to “bank” time for planning, and parents organize after-school activities for children that need child care during this time.

**If you feel that you could participate in an Early Release Friday this year, contact a member of the early release team.**

If you have already expressed interest either to us or in your child’s class meeting, but have not gotten an email response, please send one of us a quick email because we may not have contact information for you.

Thank you for supporting our children and our school!

Annie Maclay [anniemaclay@gmail.com](mailto:anniemaclay@gmail.com)

Anne Laderman [yogianne@yahoo.com](mailto:yogianne@yahoo.com)

Katherine Mahoney [katherine\\_mahoney@yahoo.com](mailto:katherine_mahoney@yahoo.com)

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## Save The Dates

October 17

November 14

December 5 (11:45)

January 16

January 30

February 27

March 13 (11:45)

April 24

May 8

May 22

June 5

# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Library Fundraiser Used Book + Toy Sale

First Weekend in November, 11/1 & 2

## Six Ways You Can Help

1. **Now...** Bring in copier boxes with lids.
2. **Now...** Help SORT donated books. It's actually fun! 10 minutes of sorting helps tremendously.
3. **Now...** Bring in adult + children books, DVDs, CDs, and videos.
4. **Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> week** Post flyers around the community at businesses and offices. Pick up flyers in the library.
5. **Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> week** Bring in good condition toys, toys, and more toys! Also sign up to set up/sell/and haul away.
6. **Sun. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>** 10 am – 12 pm. Move boxes of books from the school to the gym. If you can borrow or bring your own hand-truck this would be great!
7. **Thurs. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>** Pre-sale for Lincoln families. 5 – 7 pm.



This sale provides almost all of the funding for new books in our school library. Join us before and during the sale for all the fun!

# Options Design for Learning (ODL)

By Annie Maclay

This year our community will revisit and rewrite the Options Design for Learning (ODL). The ODL is a working agenda to support and improve student learning at Lincoln. It reflects the beliefs set down in the Options philosophy and provides a framework for how we will nurture these beliefs and make them a reality at our school over the next 5 years.

The Options philosophy is based on three core beliefs:

- ✓ Each child is a unique being who develops at an individual pace and has distinct interests
- ✓ Curiosity and creativity are innate in all children and a school can enhance the child's natural drive to explore and experiment in the real world.
- ✓ Thought and expression develop from experience.

**The Spanish Language Program, Garden, Wetlands and Organic School Lunches are a few of the things that have come from previous initiatives.** The ODL shapes the school. It is our turn to explore why we feel that alternative education is important, what we want to preserve and sustain and what our vision is for the future.

**We will begin this process by holding a community café discussion night on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Lincoln Gym.** A workgroup will then form a set of initiatives from the ideas that are generated by our community at this event. We invite you to be part of the process, both by attending the café and by joining the workgroup that will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tues. of every month. This is an exciting and rewarding process and we hope that you are able to participate in it with us.

Lincoln Options Opus

October 2014

## 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!



## Community Café in the Lincoln Gym

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 PM

Come for an evening of small group discussions around the importance of the Options Program and our vision for the future.