

Lincoln Options Opus

A community dedicated to learning, kindness, and celebration!



December 2014

Calendar

December

- 3 – District Late Start, no AM bus
- 5 – Early Release District-wide dismissal 11:45, no lunch, no activities
- 9 – OCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 15 – OSD Board Mtg @ 6:30 pm
- 22-Jan 4 – Winter break

January

- 5 – School resumes
- 5 – OSD Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 7 – District late start, no AM bus
- 13 – OCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 15 – Books, Bears, & Blankets, Family Literacy Night, 6:30-8 pm
- 16 – Early Release (12:32 dismissal)
- 19 – MLK Jr Holiday
- 20 – OSD Board Mtg @ 6:30 pm
- 21 – District late start, no AM bus
- 26-30 – Washington Children's Choice
- 27 – OCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 27 – OSD & Griffin SD joint meeting
- 30 – Early Release (12:32 dismissal)

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Lincoln's Three Themes

By Jess Revelas, Options Council President

Did you ever wonder why Lincoln has three themes? What does “Sense of Place” mean anyway? How is a school-wide theme integrated into my child’s learning? I sat down and talked to Marcela in order to get some answers.

A guiding principle of the Options program is that **we want our kids to “become active participants in a democratic society working towards a just and sustainable global community.”** One of the ways that we strive to achieve this is by teaching through projects and themes. Theme-based learning encourages kids to make connections and offers them the opportunity to learn about something in a way that is meaningful to them. Thematic instruction seeks to put cognitive skills such as reading, thinking, and writing, and fluency in music, art, and science in the context of a real life situation, which helps promote deeper understanding.

Marcela told me that to this end, the teachers and staff used to come up with a new theme every year, but eventually they decided that they would stick with three main themes, which would rotate every three years.

Our themes are **Community: “What Makes Us Human?”; Social Justice: “Movers and Shakers”; and Environment: “Sense of Place.”** This year the theme is “Sense of Place.”

Since we believe that kids learn best when they can associate whatever they learn with their surroundings and with real life examples, an element of **community service** is woven into each of the themes. In March of every year, each class completes a **project** centered around that year’s theme, **which is presented to the Lincoln community at our Culminating Event**, also known as Theme

Night. This year’s Theme Night will be in March.

So what do the themes really mean? Sense of Place is based on the idea that **people protect what they know and love**, and that the best way to make connections is to learn deeply about someplace that is meaningful to you. There are innumerable ways that we can learn about our “place”—the individual class and teacher decide how they want to approach a theme, and what they want to present as their project.

This year, some teachers will be concentrating on Native studies, including using parts of a well-regarded curriculum called “Since Time Immemorial”. Kids will look back at the history of this region and the different people who have lived here. Another way teachers approach the “Sense of Place” theme is by encouraging kids to learn about native plants and wildlife. One is already studying trees, and will move into learning about Northwest animals. When my son was in first grade, “Sense of Place” was the theme, and every child in Wendy Frankel-Reed’s class chose a Northwest animal to study; Leo had a great time searching for a beaver dam and then presenting what he had learned about those tree-felling rodents in the form of a poster.



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Last year, the theme was “Movers and Shakers”. “Movers and Shakers” encourages the kids to investigate **someone who has made a difference for the common good**. Some projects that I saw at last year’s theme night were: incredible dioramas of movers and shakers in Marty’s class; a puppet production in Rich’s class; mobiles in Angela’s class; and beautiful reports on historical figures in Michi’s class. Movers and Shakers will be the theme again in the 2016-17 school year.

The third theme, which will be next school year’s theme, is “What Makes Us Human.” This theme will explore all aspects of humanity. I am looking forward to seeing how the creative minds at Lincoln will interpret this!

Thanks to Marcela for talking to me about this. I have a better understanding of our themes now and I hope you do too! This year, I’m going to try to think deeply about my “sense of place”—in this community, in this temperate rainforest, on this planet—and talk to my kids about it as much as I can. I will also be celebrating mightily as we start to tip back towards the sun on December 21st—Happy Solstice! Love, Jess

Pledge Drive Update

There are pledge forms in the office and all around the school.

Can your family pledge any amount, even just \$1?

You can make a one-time donation or pledge a recurring amount.

Our goal is 100% of families pledging!

Please return a pledge form today!



From The Library

By Teacher-Librarian Donna Dannenmiller

What types of lessons are taught in library classes?

- ✓ Safety rules/fire and earthquake drills
- ✓ How to use our library.
- ✓ Shelf markers to hold the shelf place for a book
- ✓ Alphabetical order
- ✓ Organization for our specific library
- ✓ Call numbers and barcodes
- ✓ Dewey decimal groupings
- ✓ Destiny Library Catalog Search (Grades 3-5)
- ✓ Recess in the library - A quiet choice to read, draw, write, or play chess.
- ✓ How to care for books.
- ✓ How to choose a book.
- ✓ The elements of non-fiction and fiction books.
- ✓ The elements of a story (plot, settings, characters, problem to solve, etc.)
- ✓ Vocabulary expansion
- ✓ Genres - (i.e. mystery, fairy tales, science fiction, adventure, etc.)
- ✓ Book talks about newly published books as well as the tried and true.
- ✓ Different ways readers connect with books...Text to self/Text to text/Text to world
- ✓ Award books...regional and national.
- ✓ Authors and illustrators
- ✓ Research resources...Which best fit my needs?
- ✓ Readers' Theater

The above is a sampling of a myriad of topics included in our library classes, which last from 40-45 minutes each week.

Save the Date:

Thursday, January 15th, will be our Family Literacy Night, known as "Books, Bears, and Blankets" from 6:30-8:00 pm in the library.

During that school day, we are hosting an award winning author, **Deborah Hopkinson**, who researches and writes historical fiction and non-fiction. She will give four writing workshops throughout the day, for the different levels of our students. Deborah will join us at the very beginning of our Family Literacy Night to speak to parents about family literacy and writing books.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR THIS FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH DEBORAH!!

Keyboarding Classes

Twice a month, on Thursday afternoons, Donna teaches keyboarding to **third graders in Maggie's, Rich's, & Angela's classes**. For an introduction to keyboarding, we use **Dance Mat Typing**, which is user friendly and fun. This site can be accessed for home practice, using lincoln@osd.wednet.edu. On the Lincoln website, there is a link to the **Lincoln Options Library** on the top of the right side bar. Click on that link to get to the library home page, which lists **Keyboarding Websites**. Dance Mat Typing does not require a login. As the students progress in keyboarding, at some point in time, they will switch over to using **Keyboarding Online**, which is also listed on the home page. This requires a login which is listed on the link (le213). Keyboarding Online is less user friendly and used by more advanced students. **HOME KEYBOARDING PRACTICE IS ENCOURAGED, IF STUDENTS ARE FREQUENTLY MONITORED FOR USING CORRECT FINGERING, AND GOOD POSTURE.** Unless students are monitored, they can "complete" all the stages and levels, without actually learning correct keyboard fingering! Call Donna, if you have any questions...596-6402.

Can you help?

Contact Amy by phone
240.281.6514 or by email
amybrockman@yahoo.com

We Need a New Playground!

by Amy Brockman

It's unanimous: Lincoln's playground is in dire need of an overhaul. A Playground Committee has been meeting since the start of the school year to ensure that the playground is updated – soon! (Join us!) In summary, this project will have three phases:

Phase I: Safety Repairs of Existing Equipment & Installation of Three Structures

The Olympia School District (OSD) has agreed to repair all safety hazards on our existing equipment, including worn plastic parts, exposed wires, etc. The OSD will also be installing three play structures that were recently removed from Garfield ES (a see-saw, a small spinning structure, and a climbing structure with a slide). These are all in very good condition and are geared for younger students. The safety repairs will be done within the next few weeks and the “new” equipment will be installed during the upcoming winter break; a representative from the OSD has confirmed this timeline and is supporting us on this effort. OSD is covering all costs. (Yeah!)

Phase II: Raise Funds, Purchase & Install New Play Structure/Area for Older Students

The Playground Committee will lead a fundraising campaign that will target multiple income sources including grants and private donations from Lincoln alumni, residents of the South Capital neighborhood, the Options Community Council, local businesses and Lincoln families. The hope is to install something during the 2015 summer break. (Eek!) We are now in the process of defining a fundraising goal for this second phase based on the cost of the desired “equipment”. Recommendations from a newly forming Playground Design Sub-Committee will guide us; see details on how you can be part of this group below.

Phase III: Replace Lincoln's Large Climbing Structure

In 2016 the OSD will put a Bond to public vote. Our plan is to lobby for the replacement of the Lincoln climbing structure (and possibly other playground elements) to be part of this Bond and therefore be publicly funded. So far two Lincoln parents have agreed to participate on the 2016 Bond Committee. Lincoln representation on the public Bond Committee will allow Lincoln to be involved in the proposal process. The details of a Lincoln proposal are still being determined. I have been told by the OSD that the 2016 Bond will go to public vote early in the 2016 calendar year and that if the Lincoln playground project is included and if the Bond is approved, playground improvements could be made as early as the summer of 2016. (Awesome!)

Note: The Playground Committee is also addressing the poor condition of the playing field. We have requested that field repairs be addressed by the OSD as part of Phase I above. If necessary we will include field repairs or additional field repairs as part of Phase III.

How Can You Help Now?

We are forming a Playground Design Sub-Committee. This group will hear presentations from multiple playground vendors including one that specializes in “Natural Playgrounds”. The focus of this Sub-Committee will be on Design, not Fundraising. After completing some initial research Marcela will be asking for student input as well. **Please let me know if you would like to participate in the design group!** I am also seeking a volunteer to help design a slick one page fundraising tool that we can use during Phase II – to raise money! I have some ideas but need someone who can make it look good and easy to read! **Contact me if you have graphic design skills (or experience designing fundraising collateral) and want to help out.** Thanks for your support!

---Amy Brockman, *Playground Committee, Mom to Felix (Rich's class) & Celia (Kari's class)*

Choir Begins!

By

Michael Dempster

Starting NEXT WEEK, the Silver and Gold Choirs will begin!

The **Silver Choir**, open to kids from Kindergarten through 3rd grade, will meet at first recess on Wednesdays, in the activity room. The **Gold Choir** meets at first recess on Thursdays, and is for kids in 4th and 5th grades. Also meets in the activity room.

All kids who enjoy music are welcome to come, on a drop-in basis. Sessions are led by Michael Dempster, Parent Band leader and former science and music teacher here at Lincoln Options. Paulette Frisina, also of the Parent Band, will often assist. The emphasis is on having fun with music!

These sessions will continue until Winter Break, when the Silver Choir will finish for the year. Gold Choir will then accept third-graders, and then meet twice a week, with regular attendance required. These kids will perform at occasional assemblies, and for senior citizens in the spring.

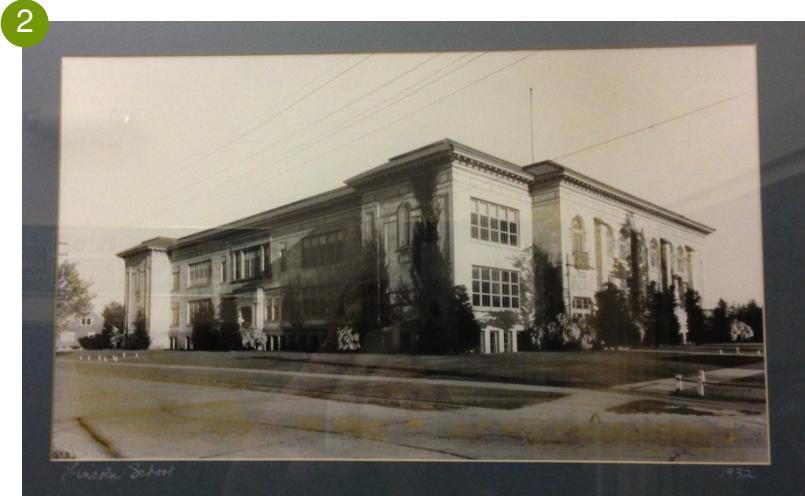
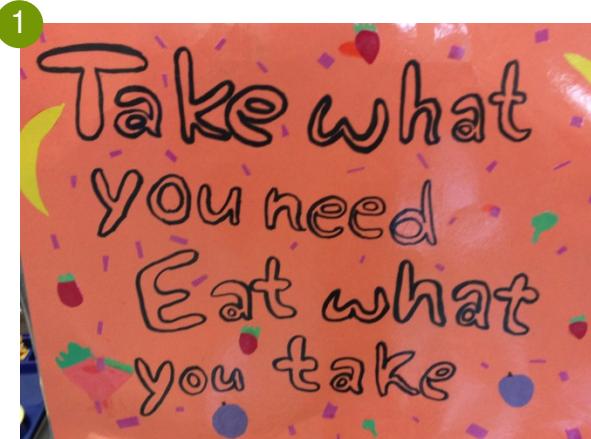
Questions? Email Michael Dempster: michaeldempster1@gmail.com

1. Remember, learning another language takes time.
2. Make a commitment to try.
3. Be patient with the teacher and yourself.
4. Be willing to make mistakes.
5. Ask the teacher a question or to repeat when you don't understand.
6. Realize you WON'T understand everything all the time and try not to be frustrated (not easy, we know).
7. Listen to Spanish (music, TV, etc.)
8. Read books in Spanish &/or use a picture dictionary.
9. Practice what you learn and keep on practicing!
10. Ask your teacher, librarian, or family members for ideas on other ways to practice.

**So, you want
to learn
Spanish?**

*by the
Options Council
Spanish Committee*

Seen Around Our School... Can you and your Lincoln student identify these sights from around our school? Try a scavenger hunt!



Meet Angie Kelly

Hello Lincoln Community,

My name is Angie Kelly, and I am proud to be serving as a Washington Reading Corps member at Lincoln this school year. I am the parent of a Lincoln alumni, and of a 1st grader, and a Kindergartener who are both in Kari Rigg's class. The Options Program has been an important part of my family, and one of the things I value most is the open invitation to bring our unique gifts to share in this rich community. I feel fortunate to work with students this year to encourage a love of learning by promoting literacy!

While shelving books in our lovely library, I've found many treasures. One fun read aloud story I suggest for families with youngers is How to Teach a Slug to Read by Susan Pearson. While children enjoy the story and illustrations, adults get some helpful tips for supporting emerging readers. As Donna mentioned in last month's Opus, family members can sign up for a library account, too!

Happy Reading!



Angie Kelly

akelly@students.osd.wednet.edu



Angie with Willa and Jayvyn - Spring 2014, Lincoln Library Books, Bears + Blankets literacy night

Proposed Cell Tower Update

By Donna Flannagan

Cell Tower Update as of 11/12/14

Last spring AT&T identified the water tower located in Stevens Field/Lincoln Elementary school as a potential future cell tower location. Because of the water towers proximity to the I-5 corridor, this location was considered highly desirable. Through the efforts of the Olympia coalition of neighborhood associations, representatives from those neighborhoods and representatives from Lincoln Elementary, AT&T decided to put the Lincoln site on hold indefinitely.

More Good News:

On Monday, Nov 3, the OSD passed Resolution 533 concerning safe land uses near Olympia schools. This Resolution is the end result of the efforts of South Capital Neighborhood resident Matt Kennelly who worked with the Superintendent and Board of Directors to create a policy to address the safety of students and staff as it relates to the use of land near school buildings.

Below is an excerpt of the resolution:

"the Board may choose to advise the proper authorities on behalf of the local school community when controversial developments are proposed which present alleged but unproven adverse health consequences or other potential risks to students and staff in school facilities and on school grounds, and there is sufficient concern among students, their parents and staff that such developments may in the opinion of the Board of Directors adversely affect school performance or spirit."

The resolution specifically calls out cellular antennae as one of these types of controversial developments. This resolution arises out of Superintendent Cvitanich's review of the cell phone issue. It was broadened to account for multiple other land uses the Board wants to take a position on. Hear for yourself how the Board feels on the issue in the Superintendent's words:

<http://osd.wednet.edu/media/board/podcast/20141020BoardMeeting.mp3>

(Discussion of the resolution begins around 50 minutes into the meeting)

The Resolution will be posted next to the Lincoln Office doors for your reference.

Thanks to all those who participated in keeping our students, staff and neighborhood safe.

Looking for a Volunteer Soccer Coach/Mentor!

Through out the year, during recess times when weather doesn't interfere with outdoor play, there are groups of kids who enjoy playing and practicing soccer skills out on the field. The range of players spans all ages and abilities, and often this is a fun way for kids to get in some active playtime. Lincoln has some recess guidelines, which are newly posted on the outer wall of the play shed thanks to last year's 5th grade class's graduation gift. These guidelines help to ensure safety and inclusion for all kids to enjoy recess activities.

We are looking for a volunteer who is knowledgeable about soccer and is interested to help facilitate inclusive soccer play for kids. We would like to find someone who is available one or more times a week ideally during our lunchtime recess. A person best suited to this role would be someone who can give direction and guidance and support the kids to grow their skills and enhance teamwork. This volunteer would work along side Lincoln's awesome Recess Teachers in helping kids to stay true to the guidelines that make our recess a safe time for all to participate. While many of us recently enjoyed the World Cup games, that kind of soccer play is not what we are trying to achieve during recess at Lincoln. ☺

The full lunch recess runs from 11:35-12:20pm for all kids but is split in two parts, with about half of the students split into 1st lunch or 2nd lunch. If you are interested to know more or have ideas about this role, please contact Angie Kelly at akelly@students.osd.wednet.edu. All volunteers must go through the OSD Application and Background check process each school year. You can do this quickly online at <http://osd.wednet.edu/community/volunteer> or go for the printable versions of the Volunteer Application. You can also pick up the application or get further information on accessing the on-line version in the Lincoln office.

Lincoln Options Opus

December 2014

It's our Opus.

If you have an item for the Opus, please forward it to Sarah Clifthorne at opuseditor@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is the **15th of each month** for the next month's issue.

Questions? Feedback?

Suggestions for improvements? Contact us via email. Thanks!

