



Directors' Report
April 6, 2017

ADMINISTRATION

Del Rey Campus Update:

Kindergarten Faculty Part 1 Temperaments and Biography ACG presentation

The Kindergarten team shared an insightful presentation about the four Temperaments in the DR library filled with parents on March 31st. The team explained the strengths and challenges with each of the temperaments (Choleric, Sanguine, Phlegmatic, and Melancholic) and how this informs the way the teachers work the children. We thank the Kindergarten team for their wisdom and insight.

Mark your calendars now for the next presentation, Part 2 - "**Temperaments and Biography**", **Friday, April 28th at 8:30am in the DR library.**

Westchester Campus Update:

Alumni Night

Thank you to all our alumni, parents, and students who attended our annual Alumni Night on March 21st. Alumni (9th graders to freshman in college) from charter, traditional public, magnet, private, and parochial high schools shared their experiences transitioning from OCS to high school, tips for success in high school, information about their particular high school program, and what their biggest "take-a-ways" are from their time at OCS. Students and parents then asked terrific questions to take the conversation deeper. We hope the event was informative and inspirational as we heard how truly unique our educational program is.

LAUSD Annual Oversight Visit:

The first half of the annual oversight visit took place on March 24th at the Del Rey campus. The team spent the day from 8:00am-4:00pm interviewing the Directors on matters pertaining to State testing (CAASP, including analysis of subgroups) and internal assessments (Easy CBM's), Curriculum (focus on Writing across the grades and Leveled Reading), Student Safety and Emergency Procedures, Special Education, and Fiscal Segregation of Duties. The highlight for the team was touring the classrooms, including watching the first grade play, *The Lazy Gnome's Birthday*, performed by Ms. Tamar's class! The team expressed how impressed they were with the confidence with which the students delivered their lines that they recited chorally, while they also recognized that each child had a special role. We thank our DR teachers for delivering the standards based Waldorf curriculum with such precision, joy, and enthusiasm!



During the debriefing after the classroom observations, the team focused on 4 particular areas: Health and Safety, Arts-Integration, Clarity in Writing Expectations, and Reading/Writing.

The oversight team will return to complete the second half of the visit on April 12th at the Westchester campus. The district team will evaluate OCS overall in the following areas: Governance, Student Achievement and Educational Performance, Organizational Management, Programs and Operations, and Fiscal Operations.

Enrollment Update:

Snapshot by grade as of 3/31/17

K-65
TK-40
1-56
2-51
3-55
4-56
5-54
6-50
7-40
8-50
Total-517

Admissions Preferences and Policies:

Admissions at OCS

Ocean Charter School serves over 500 students. We are a growing school, still increasing the total number of families accessing a free, public Waldorf education on the Westside of Los Angeles. So far, we have received 600+ applications for the 2017-18 school year. This growing interest in our school can be attributed to our unique, arts-integrated program and the exciting prospect of occupying our new school site in the next few years.

With this increased interest in our school and a higher volume of applications, getting in to OCS has gotten tougher, even for siblings of currently enrolled students. While there is a preference extended to siblings in our lottery, no guarantee can be made that space will be available for all siblings who apply. This is especially true in Kindergarten and the grades, where students move up through the years and fill our classes from within the program.



In the 2016-2017 school year, we added a fourth Kindergarten class. Given the number of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten applicants, this decision was made to increase enrollment by adding another class during a year when meeting financial soundness was critical to our permanent building project. With the additional class, and the number of projected Kindergarteners, the plan was to have three first grade classes in the 2017-2018 school year.

Initially, over the summer of 2016, offers were extended to create a balance of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. However, on the first day of school, many Kindergarten students were not in attendance and Kindergarten offers were made until the Kindergarten waiting list was exhausted. Given that an increase in enrollment was necessary to meet financial soundness, offers were extended to Transitional Kindergarten students to fill the classes because the Kindergarten waiting list was exhausted. Unlike in prior years, we have filled our 2017-18 Kindergarten class to capacity and may not have additional openings next year. In addition, because we filled this year's classes with a higher number of TKs, the total number of rising Kindergarteners is fewer and therefore, there will be two first grade classes instead of three.

We wish that everyone who seeks a free, public Waldorf education in Los Angeles could be enrolled at OCS. Since that is not possible, we present the following FAQs and hope that it will educate applicant parents and help you navigate the admissions process.

Are there any enrollment preferences?

Yes, the following categories receive priority in admission, in this order.

1. Students attending or eligible by home address to attend Braddock Drive Elementary.
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students.
3. Children of OCS staff or board members.
4. Applicants residing within the LAUSD service boundaries.

How do these priority groups work in the lottery? Are there "points"?

No, there are no "points" and our lottery applicants are not weighted according to their priority group. Instead, each category has its own lottery drawing. Then, the lists that are generated by the lottery drawings are stacked, starting with the first priority group and moving down. This creates the waiting list order we use for filling available spaces.

So, if my child is in the Braddock or Sibling priority group, they are definitely going to get in, right?

Not necessarily. We cannot make any guarantees to any applicant, regardless of priority group, that they will get in to the school.



Does OCS have Kindergarten openings available every year?

No, we don't. In fact, our Kindergarten, much like the other, upper grades, only has openings available when an enrolled student withdraws from the school. Unlike some other schools, Kindergarten is not the first entry grade at OCS. Because of our two-year Kindergarten program, most of our Kindergarteners are continuing students who have previously been enrolled with us for Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten in Waiting.

What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten in Waiting (KIW)?

TK is our first entry grade for students born between June 1st and Dec. 1st, who will be turning 5 years old the year they enter school. KIW is our first entry grade for students born between Dec. 2nd and May 31st. KIW students are offered pre-enrollment up to 18 months in advance of their start at school.

Why does OCS have TK and KIW?

If you notice, the birthdate eligibility for TK and KIW, when backed-up to each other, creates a full 12-month window for student birthdates (June 1st to May 31st.) If we were to only enroll students from one category, we would narrow all student birthdates down to a 6-month range. We believe that students are best served when their class spans the full age-ranges typically found in that grade.

We only want our child to attend one year of Kindergarten. Will we be able to enroll them for Kindergarten if we skip TK?

Maybe not. As mentioned before, our Kindergarten, much like the other, upper grades, only has openings available when an enrolled student withdraws from the school. We encourage parents to apply as soon as their child is eligible. That may be for TK or KIW. In any case, we typically have a number of TK and KIW openings available each year but may not have any K openings. Please keep this in mind as you are deciding when to apply.

Does OCS contact every family and update them on their lottery result/waiting list status?

Unfortunately, with 600+ applicants, we are not able to communicate with every applicant about their application status. If you would like to know the status of your application please email enrollment@oceancs.org.

Parent Tours and Information Meetings:

The March 22nd tour at WC and March 29th tour at DR were well attended despite the fact that the lottery has already passed. Parents have indicated a great deal of interest in the plans to build the new TK-8th school building. We have two more parent tours and information meetings:

- April: DR - 4/26 - 8:15am
- May: DR - 5/31 - 8:15am



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Curriculum:

Intervention Conferences:

Teachers held Intervention Conferences with parents on March 13-15th to address academic or social issues students may be experiencing. These spring conferences are designed to keep parents well informed of their child's progress as well as areas of challenge. They provide a forum for collaboration so that parents and teachers are working as a team in support of our students.

6th Grade Medieval Games: Highland Hall

As part of the 6th grade study of medieval history, both 6th grade classes traveled to Highland Hall Waldorf School in Northridge for this year's Medieval Games. The games included archery, jousting, javelin hoops, circus arts, and other medieval games. Best of all, the day ends with the famous mud run that does include a mud pit deep enough for students to soak their heads, if they wish! Schools are mixed together into various shires for the day, and the belting of "Huzzah" can be heard as enthusiastic participants cheer each other on in this raucous event.

7th and 8th Grade Track and Field Meet: Orange County Waldorf

After competing in mixed school and group Games events in 5th and 6th grade, the older middle school students now participate in individually competitive events in the annual Track and Field meet. This year's event was hosted by the Orange County Waldorf School. Each school wears their school's t-shirt for the day which helps observing students easily cheer their classmates on during the events. Events include the mile run, 50-meter, 100-meter, 400-meter, relays, hurdles, long jump, high jump, javelin, discuss, and hammer. All students participate in 5 events in some combination of running and field events. The day closes with an awards ceremony and the bestowing of individual medals. Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade students and teachers for their excellent performance and sportsmanship.

Faculty Professional Development:

In our ongoing work on diversity and equity, OCS will host LGBT training for faculty and staff provided by LifeWorks through the Los Angeles LGBT Center on April 12th. Over the years, the number of students and parents who identify with LGBT at OCS has grown. Working with experienced and qualified trainers like LifeWorks will help build our capacity as an organization to mindfully support our students.



Beach Clean-A-Thon:

Central to OCS' mission and vision and to Waldorf Education generally is caring for our planet. OCS' annual BCAT is a great way OCS gives back to our local community in environmental service! It is also a fundraiser for both OCS and our partner, Heal the Bay. This year, the all-school event will take place on Thursday, April 13th at the beach at the end of Culver Blvd. Students at DR are being prepared by their teachers in developmentally appropriate ways so they feel empowered and inspired to keep our beaches and oceans clean. The older WC students will participate in a Heal the Bay presentation about ocean ecology and preservation on April 6th. They will delve more into the science behind preservation, and find personal inspiration for doing their part to take care of our planet earth.

Coming School Events:

- April 11th, Tuesday, **4th Grade Japanese Play "Momotaro"**, WC Social Hall, 9:30AM and 6:30PM
- April 13th, Thursday, **Beach Clean-A-Thon**
- April 14th-23rd, Friday-Sunday, **Spring Break, NO SCHOOL**
- April 28th, Friday, **ACG: Temperaments and Biography (Part 2)**, DR Library, 8:30-9:30AM