

August 6, 2015

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Prop 39/Co-location Update:**

Facility Preparation: Administration has worked with district and WESM staff to deep clean the floors and repair lights all of our bungalow rooms, including our new room T3. The privacy fencing will be moved to include the new room prior to our first day of school.

Internet Service: Regarding internet service, we are in the final stages of switching from district provided service for our students to private service through AT&T, as required by the district. The cost to OCS will be approximately \$13,000 for the year.

Partnership: OCS administration and WESM faculty have discussed creating a free homework support club for OCS students that is led by strong WESM students who need to complete community service hours. Our goal is to begin the program in the fall semester.

### **Mar Vista Campus Update:**

Facility Preparation: The MV campus has been buzzing with activity since the students left for summer break on June 12<sup>th</sup>. With the safety of the children in mind, the following projects were completed:

- Installation of security cameras
- Major trimming of trees and shrubbery
- Repair of playground structures
- Distribution of massive quantities of wood chips throughout the playgrounds

Additionally, the interior of the Yellow House was painted in preparation for a third grade classroom, and the floors, carpets, and rugs in every classroom and office space were professionally cleaned. The faculty/staff lounge flooring was replaced and student readers and faculty resource materials and books have been neatly organized along the walls in locking glass cabinets.

Spanish Church building update: The bids Administration presented to renovate the Spanish church building were rejected by MCF. However, MCF is open to the possibility of the church renovating the space and entering into a discussion on forming a lease with the school and Spanish church for use of a newly renovated building. The timing of when this would take place is TBD. In the meantime, OCS will use creativity and imagination with respect to multipurpose space for plays, Reef café, and Handwork classes.

### **Long Term Site Update:**

OCS' site task force continues to work with multiple realtors to identify private sites that meet our program needs and are located in areas as close as possible to our current MV and WC sites. The task force also continues to engage

LAUSD in conversation about possible long-term co-location possibilities. Finally, OCS is looking at available government-owned land to see if any of it is feasible.

Community Engagement Needed: OCS needs consistent representation at community council meetings in the Westchester area, the Mar Vista area, and the Del Rey area. Site task force efforts include recruiting parent volunteers to represent OCS at these meetings. Board members Mark Gallanty and November McIlhargey are heading this effort.

**Enrollment Update:**

2015-16 Enrollment as of August 6, 2015 is projected to be 475.

**SB 277 Becomes Law:**

On June 30, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed California bill SB 277 into law. This law eliminates the personal belief exemption to the immunization requirements for all public and private school students in California. SB 277 maintains an exemption to the vaccine requirements for students who have medical necessity. SB 277 becomes law on January 1, 2016.

Administration is gathering information from the CDE, CCSA, legal, and medical professionals about exactly how this bill affects currently enrolled families, and will be sharing updated information prior to the start of our school year.

**School Attendance Data Collection:**

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved the use of attendance rates as an additional indicator in the 2015 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations for elementary and middle schools. The California Department of Education (CDE) will be collecting attendance data for all public schools with students enrolled in Transitional kindergarten through grade eight (TK-8).

**Diversity Update:**

OCS administration has hired an Outreach and Community Relations Coordinator to increase and improve our diversity outreach and marketing efforts. OCS is committed to achieving our diversity goals as described in our charter of: 45% white and 55% non-white overall student population, plus a 3% increase of English Language Learners, Latino students and students eligible for Free/Reduced lunch each year by our next charter renewal. Key to this effort is helping OCS be a community in which all members see themselves.

To achieve these goals, the Diversity Committee is being invigorated with new members, including faculty members Ms. Mendoza and Mr. Castillo, and new ideas, including sensitivity training for faculty, staff, and the entire OCS community. The committee welcomes new members.

**Ice Cream Social:**

OCS' annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at the WC Campus from 5-7pm. New and returning families will be welcomed with ice

cream and friendly faces. This event is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones prior to the start of school. Faculty and staff will be there to greet families, and committee heads will have booths to share information about all the wonderful ways families can get involved at OCS, including: Diversity Committee, Winter Faire, Annual Family Giving, Silent Auction, and more!

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **Rudolf Steiner College Waldorf Teacher Education Certification:**

It is with great pride that we announce the following graduates of the Rudolf Steiner College Waldorf Teacher Education Certification Program. The dedication to Waldorf Education and personal and professional growth demonstrated by our faculty directly impacts the depth of the education we offer our students. In addition to attending one week Art of Teaching classes annually for the grade level they teach in the fall, these teachers have attended 3 weekend seminars hosted at OCS during the school year for two years, plus 2 weeks in Sacramento for 3 summers. On average, these teachers have spent 3 weeks away from their families attending classes at RSC in Sacramento over summer in order to better understand not only **what** we teach, but more importantly, **why**. CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU TO OUR FACULTY!

Mr. Carlos Castillo  
Ms. Katy Gannon  
Ms. Megan Helms  
Mrs. Katelynn Jaques  
Ms. Aly Leavitt  
Ms. Stephanie McGurk  
Ms. Tomasa Mendoza  
Ms. Chantal Tejaratchi  
Ms. Stephanie Edwards  
Ms. Kristy Mack-Fett

### **End of Year Reports:**

The End of Year Reports were mailed to all parents/guardians in early July. The annual End of Year Reports include a comprehensive narrative report of each student, and letter grades for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. These reports give parents an overview of the curriculum for the year, as well as individual, academic progress information about their child. In addition, and in line with our practice of Waldorf Education, parents receive information about the social-emotional and artistic development of their child. Recommendations on how parents can support their child's learning over the summer vacation are also included.