



Directors' Report
June 4, 2020

“A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole **community** finds its reflection, and when, in the whole **community**, the virtue of each one is living.” ~ Rudolf Steiner

ADMINISTRATION

End of Year Closing Ceremonies

Kindergarten Bell Ceremony

Each Kindergarten teacher lovingly created a rite of passage ceremony for TK children transitioning to being a Kindergartener and becoming helpers for the new young ones that join the class next year, and for Kindergarteners moving into first grade. The Kindergarten students participated in a Bell Ceremony, signifying moving into first grade and listening for the school bell. Each rising first grader received a bell necklace. These ceremonies remind children to offer gratitude for what has been, and what will be tomorrow.





7th/8th Grade Rock Ceremony

Each graduating 8th grade student found and beautifully hand painted a rock for a rising 8th student to symbolize the responsibility of becoming the lead class at Ocean Charter School. The 8th grade teachers collected these rocks and passed them along to the 7th grade teachers who first displayed them and then presented one to each rising 8th grade student in their class.



8th Grade Rose Ceremony

At the start of the year, 4th grade students received a rose from their 8th grade buddy in our first day of school Rose Ceremony. On our second to last day of school, the 4th graders say goodbye to their 8th grade buddy by presenting her or him with a rose. This year, since the students could not be together to present, 4th grade students wrote personal notes for each grade student which were handed along with a rose to each 8th grade graduate by their class teacher. Cheers were loud and joyous from both 8th grade teachers, Mr. Davidson, and Ms. Kristy as each graduate received her/his rose and letter!

Goodbyes and Gratitude for Class Teachers and Service Providers not Returning to OCS Next Year

OCS faculty and staff participated in a zoom celebration of our teachers and service providers transitioning from Ocean Charter School. The OCS Executive Directors presented faculty members and service providers with a beautiful flower and shared attributes unique to each individual. We thank the following teachers and service providers for their many years of dedication and service to the children of OCS. We will miss you!



Ms. Lisa Borhaug – Kindergarten, and first-third grade class teacher, 6 years
Ms. Borhaug has brought her deep commitment to and beautiful practice of Waldorf Education to our entire school, both as a kindergarten teacher and a grades teacher. We wish her well in her new school, El Rio, only 15 minutes from her home.

Mrs. Lillian Higashi – First-third grade class teacher, 3 years
Mrs. Higashi has brought joy, beauty, and truth to her class over the past three years and will be dearly missed by all. We know she will enjoy this time with her new daughter, Ella Sophia

Ms. Lisa Kuter – Fourth - sixth grade class teacher, 3 years
Ms. Kuter transitioned her class from the elementary years to the middle school years with love. We look forward to her continued service at OCS as a substitute teacher.

Mr. John Davidson – Resource teacher, 8 years
Mr. Davidson's dedication to his craft, willingness to help out in any way, and absolute love of his students will be missed! We wish him all the best in his next adventure.

Ms. De'Andra Montgomery – Resource teacher, 5 years
Ms. Montgomery's passion for her students and their success will be remembered! We know she will shine in her next endeavor.

Mr. Sherwin Kim – Resource teacher, 2 years
Mr. Kim's skills as a teacher and ability to connect with students are deeply appreciated! We will miss him.

Ms. Jane Hamilton – School Psychologist, 8 years
Ms. Hamilton's expertise, calmness, and genuine care for students are one of a kind. We thank her for touching so many students' and families' lives.

Ms. Trennell Palacio – School Counselor, 3 years
Ms. Palacio's warm and soothing energy has helped us all. We look forward to continuing our work with her in informal counseling at OCS.

Mr. Adam Bruno – School Counselor, 10 years
After 10 years, Mr. Adam has affected so many lives at OCS. Always there for his students, and always committed to them "no longer needing him", we look forward to his also continuing his work in informal counseling at OCS.

Ms. Patrice LaPorte – Occupational Therapist, 9 years
Beloved by all who know her, Patrice brings joy and love to every session and insight to every meeting. We will miss her deeply!

Ms. Lisa Foster – Occupational Therapist, 3 years
"Ms. Lisa makes OT fun", as her students say; and as a result, they thrive! We wish her the best of luck next year.

Ms. Mary Miller – Occupational Therapy Assessor, 10 years
Mary Miller holistically evaluated our students to ensure they always got what they needed. We will miss her depth of knowledge and commitment.

Ms. Ashley Bernard – Speech Therapist, 1 year
Ms. Ashley stepped in seamlessly and brought both her skills and her sunny disposition to our students. We wish her the best of luck next year!



Teacher Announcements

It is an honor to introduce the talented new and returning class teachers for 2020-2021.

Kindergarten Team: Ms. Marlene, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Groom, Ms. Vicich (new)

First Grade: Ms. Alison (new) and Ms. Katherine (new)

Second Grade: Ms. Smith and Mr. Winter

Third Grade: Mrs. Becker, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Siegel

Fourth Grade: Ms. Malan and Ms. Caluza (new)

Fifth Grade: Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Mendoza

Sixth Grade: Ms. Jen and Mr. Ryan (new)

Seventh Grade: Ms. Mehring and Ms. Aly

Eighth Grade: Ms. Brenan and Mr. Bearden

New Teacher Welcome Ceremony

With enthusiasm, we welcome our new teachers, Ms. Vicich in Kindergarten, Ms. Alison in 1st, Ms. Katherine in 1st, Ms. Caluza in 4th, and Mr. Ryan in 6th who is transitioning from being a long-term substitute teacher with his class to becoming the class teacher.

To mark the important transition from one class teacher to a new class teacher, we will hold New Teacher Welcome Ceremonies with each class community, both parents and students. The teacher who is transitioning out will welcome and present the new teacher as the departing teacher lovingly hands over the class. Invitations will be sent to each class family to participate in their New Teacher Welcome Ceremony. New Teacher Welcome Ceremonies will be scheduled via zoom over the next couple of weeks.

In addition, there will be a zoom Meet and Greet scheduled for Kindergarten children and parents to meet their Kindergarten teachers.

Community Gathering #1, June 2, 2020

Close to 100 OCS community members participated in our first Community Gathering since the nationwide protests began. Parents/caregivers, teachers, staff, and administration gathered virtually via zoom for some whole group and some affinity group time together. Facilitation was provided by ombudsperson Deborah Fryman; school psychologist Jane Hamilton; OCS parents and Diversity and Equity work group leaders Jessica Martin and Dominique Dje Dje; School Counselors Trennell Palacio and Adam Bruno; OCS teachers Ms. Aly, Ms. Jen, Ms. Brenan, Ms. Groom, Ms. Schmidt, and Ms. Smith; and OCS parent Alyson Shelton with zoom support provided by OCS teacher Mr. Ryan. Feedback from the gathering indicates that OCS' indigenous, black and people of color want more of the safe space, dialogue, and community they experienced in their affinity group and OCS' white participants want more training about race and racism.



Teachers are working to gather resources to be more culturally relevant and inclusive in their lessons and classroom practices and have expressed a strong desire for training in diversity, equity and inclusion. It has been emphasized that the process in which we are engaged is a marathon, not a sprint.

Summer Activities

Move

OCS is on the move! The admin team, faculty, and support staff have been packing classrooms, offices, libraries, etc. on both campuses. We will be moving all of our belongings to the Panama site the week of June 22nd, as we must vacate the MCF Del Rey and Prop 39 WC campuses by June 30th. We thank everyone for working so hard to ensure an organized move!

Summer Professional Development OCS Summer Institute

This year's Summer Institute will be held virtually due to the pandemic. Highlights of the training will include: a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the art of Storytelling; Steiner's insights into child development; grade level training; and practical arts, all with an awareness that next school year will likely involve distance learning for all students at some point in time. OCS faculty will both participate in the workshops and be featured as faculty in some of them. Liz Beaven, president of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education; Anna Rainville, respected Waldorf teacher and mentor; and Paola Schouten will also join the faculty of the OCS Summer Institute.

Additional Teacher Training Options

Experienced OCS teachers will have a variety of training options to choose from, including offerings through WISC, the Alliance, and Eugene Schwartz.

2020-21 Enrollment as of 6/4/20

K=81

TK=27

1st=56

2nd=56

3rd=83

4th=56

5th=56

6th=56

7th=55

8th=56

Total=582



New Parent Orientations

We have already hosted 2 New Parent Orientation meetings via zoom for new families transitioning to OCS. The enthusiasm of the new families is a testament to the positive reputation of OCS as a Public Waldorf School! We have 2 more New Parent Orientation meetings scheduled this month.

2020-2021 Calendar

August 31, 2020 – first day

June 16, 2021 – last day

Thanksgiving Break – November 23-27, 2020

Winter Break- December 21, 2020 – January 1, 2021

Spring Break – April 5-9, 2021

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

End of Year Reports and Report Cards:

OCS families will receive their child's narrative End of Year Report and Report Card for middle schoolers by the end of June. Teacher's reports will include a curricular overview of the year as well as personalized feedback for each student in academic, artistic, and social-emotional areas. In the middle school, students receive letter grades in all academic subjects and specialties, with longer comments about social-emotional growth and citizenship shared in their end of year reports.

CARE Team:

CARE team work continues over summer as needed, from technical support to language support to mental health support. The CARE team will be part of planning for re-opening in the various scenarios as each one poses particular benefits and challenges for segments of our school population.

Re-opening Plans:

Administration continues to stay abreast of weekly if not daily updates from the California Department of Education and State Superintendent; the Los Angeles County Department of Education; LAUSD; the California Charter Schools Association; the Young, Minney, and Corr legal team; ExEd, and the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. While some guidelines have been released related to schools re-opening in the fall, many issues remain unresolved. Included in these still unresolved issues are: how will attendance be calculated, can independent charters make their own choices about re-opening or must they follow their authorizing district's policy, how will school



funding be affected by hybrid versions of distance learning and in person learning, how will schools cover the increased costs of in person learning due to Covid 19, and more.

Distance Learning/Hybrid version:

Administration is conducting a survey of OCS families to understand their current perspectives about possible scenarios for next year, including what type of information parents want about cleaning and sanitizing and personal protective equipment to which type of model might best meet their needs. Scenarios being considered include a full distance learning option to various hybrid scenarios, including the following:

- all students learn remotely for one day per week; students then attend half days the other 4 days
- all students learn remotely for 1 day per week; students then attend school every other day for two full days per week and join via video on the other two days
- all students learn remotely one day; students attend one day per week in person; students with greater needs (students with special needs, English language learners, students not yet performing at grade level) attend in person the other two days as other students participate via video