

Directors' Report
November 3, 2022

“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

Educational Program

Student Diversity

- Administration has submitted the annual Diversity Benchmark report to LAUSD that includes: Student demographic information, narrative comments and outreach information. The Student demographic information is included below as of 10/05/22 as compared to 2021-22 and 2020-21.

2022-2023 (capture date 10/05/22)

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 17%

PHBAO: 47%

White: 53%

Two or more races: 10%

Hispanic or Latino: 24%

Black or African American: 4%

Asian: 9%

2021-2022 (capture date 10/06/21)

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 20%

PHBAO: 51%

White: 49%

Two or more races: 13%

Hispanic or Latino: 26%

Black or African American: 5%

Asian: 8%

2020-2021 (capture date 10/09/20)

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 14%

PHBAO: 51%

White: 49%

Two or more races: 18%

Hispanic or Latino: 23%

Black or African American: 4%

Asian: 6%

Parent/Teacher Conferences and Trimester Grades (6th – 8th)

- Parent/Teacher Conferences begin the week of November 14th.
- November 14-18 are minimum days to allow the faculty time to conduct conferences after school.
- Students in grades 6th – 8th will receive their first trimester report cards in time for discussion at the parent/teacher conferences. Progress notifications were sent earlier in the trimester for any students at risk of earning a D or F for their letter grade and a 1 or 2 for citizenship or work habits.

Internal Assessments

- OCS will assess students in grades 1st – 8th for the first time with our new internal assessment system, NWEA, in early November. Students will be assessed in Language Arts and Math three times per year.
- The results of the assessments will be used to guide instruction and differentiation, and, as needed, support through the SSPT process.
- All student computers have been updated with the required browser to use the new assessment system.
- Teachers are receiving professional development in how to administer the assessments, analyze the results, share with parents, and use them to inform instruction.
- Parents will receive a Parent Report of their child's scores three times/year.

Intervention

- The Student Success and Progress Team process is well underway this year. As student needs (academic, behavioral, emotional) are identified, teachers in collaboration with our Intervention team, administration and parents work through the 3-tiered process of support. Tier 1 involves classroom-based supports. Tier 2 involves supports through Intervention. Tier 3 involves formal assessment for special education. OCS has expanded our Intervention Program this year both in terms of staffing and time with students to address the effects on learning of the pandemic.

Classroom Observations

- Classroom observations are underway in TK-8th grades.
- Areas of focus include: curriculum – planning and development, arts integration, Waldorf pedagogy, differentiation, anti-bias and anti-racism awareness, student motivation/classroom management, student assessment, and professionalism.

Professional Development (PD)

- OCS faculty and staff will participate in Professional Development trainings November 1st, a student free day.
- Faculty PD will include recitation, singing, movement, biography work, Circle practice, clay work, and NWEA (new Benchmark testing) training.
- Separate breakout groups will focus on topics specific to Specialty teachers, Intervention teachers, and Aftercare supervisors.

Addressing Mental Health

- Like schools around the country, the OCS community is experiencing a surge in mental health related concerns amongst TK-8th grade students and parents, including suicide and eating disorders. Trained professionals at OCS, including our School Psychologist and counselors, in collaboration with community mental health services, such as the LA County Department of Mental Health, are providing both emergency and ongoing support for our students in crisis.
- OCS has a team of 3 counselors to provide school-based counseling services for students not receiving counseling through an IEP. Twenty-seven students are currently participating in these informal counseling services. OCS will also begin offering Social Skills groups during the school day to support students in their development of social skills.

Extended Learning Opportunities

- OCS will be offering extended learning opportunities for students during the holiday breaks, including: Thanksgiving break, Winter break, Renewal week, and Spring break.
- These offerings will include academic support in Reading, Writing and Math with project-based learning activities to support students' foundational skills and foster their excitement about learning.
- Offerings will also include art-based enrichment, movement and games, and social interactions to support healthy social emotional development.

Community Events

Knight of the Bedtime Stories

For the first time in three years and on the new campus, the entire community enjoyed a medley of stories told by talented OCS parents, during the traditional annual *Knight of the Bedtime Stories* event held the evening of October 20th. Students of all ages arrived in pajamas, snuggled on blankets in the amphitheater as they listened to the delightful stories. Gib Gerard entertained the entire community as Master of Ceremonies! Dickie Fliszar opened the event by leading the children in singing *If You're Happy and You Know it* while strumming his guitar. Parent storytellers, Heather Carle, Eduardo Muniz and Beatriz Borin,



Joseph Pearlman, Ava Kasrabod, Margarita Smith, Jennifer Johansson, Michelle Schwartz, Faith Strongheart, Laura Madden, Matthew Biancaniello and Quincy Coleman entertained the entire community, reading a variety of stories and poems. Seventh grade student, Dhyana Baker delighted the children with her enthusiasm as she read her story.

Children, parents, and staff enjoyed homemade soup and bread lovingly made and served by Matthew Biancaniello!

We are so grateful for having such talented parents at OCS!

Book Faire

Students and parents enjoyed our annual week-long Book Faire October 17th-21st. It has been a few years since the community has enjoyed this tradition and students, parents, grandparents, teachers, and staff all enjoyed purchasing books. We are so grateful to parents, Abha Verma and Mo Thelian for organizing the Book Faire with Scholastic. Abha and Mo and several parent volunteers ensured the Book Faire ran smoothly the entire week, including throughout the *Knight of the Bedtime* event.

OCS Spirit-ware Store

OCS Spirit-ware is available for sale Friday mornings starting at 7:30am before the start of school. Currently for sale are OCS t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other OCS related items. We are so grateful to Lauren Hall for organizing and running the spirit-ware store!

Crafters

There is a weekly community gathering of crafters in the Rose Community Room each Wednesday led by Lauren Hall, Parent Coordinator of Communication. All parents, grandparents, and caregivers are welcome to join. The crafters make handmade items to be used in the classroom for stories, nature tables, etc., as well as items to be sold as a fundraiser. During the recent *Knight of the Bedtime Stories* event, the crafters sold handmade creations that delighted the community!

Governance

Updated Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy

- The Governance Committee reviewed the policy revised by YMC and suggested some additional minor edits (in blue).
- The Governance Committee is recommending the updated Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy be adopted by the BOT.

Updated Uniform Complaint Policy “UCP” and Procedures

- The Governance Committee reviewed the policy revised by YMC and suggested some additional minor edits (in blue).
- The Governance Committee is recommending the updated Uniform Complaint Policy (UCP) be adopted by the BOT.

Finance

Hanmi Bank Line of Credit Renewal: short-term extension 10/3/22 – 12/3/22 and pending a full renewal through 10/3/23

- Bank is short-staffed and requested a short-term period with a 12/3/22 maturity date
- Loan renewal period: commencement date
- \$1.3M line request, which is the same amount since October 2019. The original principal amount of the loan was \$600K in June 2017.
- Requesting Board approval for LOC renewal

Audit Sub-Committee meeting: November 29, 2022, 5:30pm and 6pm

- Presentation of draft 2021-2022 Annual Audit by Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) auditing firm; Draft report to be delivered prior to Thanksgiving; State submission deadline December 15, 2022
- Presentation of final project audit report delivered by Christy White; due to the State Nov. 30, 2022

Finance Committee meeting: November 29, 2022, 6:00pm

- Presentation of draft Site Audit for building project by Christy White auditing firm
- Prop 1D requirement (went into effect in 2019 state regs)
- Submission deadline to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC): November 30, 2022.

Personnel

Teacher Recruitment

We have already received resumes from a couple of prospective teachers with knowledge of Waldorf Education interested in teaching at a public Waldorf School in 2023-2024.

Substitute Teachers



During the winter months, particularly during flu and cold season, substitute teachers are in high demand. OCS needs additional in-house subs to fill in at a moment's notice. Qualified substitute teachers are welcome to apply.

Operations

Addressing the Fentanyl Crisis

- California faces a rapidly growing fentanyl epidemic affecting youth and teens
- In 2021, California suffered more than 6,000 tragic deaths attributed to fentanyl overdoses
- Fentanyl deaths accounted for more than 80 percent of all drug-related deaths among California's young people in 2021
- Most young victims ingested fentanyl accidentally, thinking they were taking something less dangerous.
- Often, teens think they are purchasing Adderall, OxyContin, Percocet, or Xanax pills and one pill with fentanyl can kill them.
- The drug Naloxone (Narcan) can reverse an overdose.
- OCS has completed a state wide standing order to receive Naloxone.
- OCS staff will receive Naloxone training during the upcoming Professional Development on November 1st.

Safety Drills

- The entire campus of TK-8 students, teachers, staff, and volunteers participated in a Fire Drill September 16th. The evacuation from all classroom and administration buildings was complete in four minutes. The students were orderly and followed the direction of their teachers.
- The entire campus of TK-8 students, teachers, staff, and volunteers participated in an Earthquake Drill October 14th. At the time of the drill, specific direction was given to classes outdoors, ensuring everyone moved away from any of the buildings/structures.
- The next scheduled emergency drill will be a Lockdown Drill in November.

Universal Meal Program

- Roughly 90 breakfast meals served daily
- Between 230 – 250 lunch meals served daily
- Changes in the kitchen layout have resulted in more efficient meal service during lunch
- OCS to purchase our own compostable utensils rather than purchasing through the lunch vendor

Gym Rental

- Administration through LAUSD to clarify the process, requirements and financial arrangement of renting out our gym space. There are three identified interested parties to date, including one local school.

Neighbor Relations

- 4th grade pick-up was moved back to campus as of Oct. 28th due to safety concerns (trash, broken glass, personal items, etc.) related to the unhoused encampment along Little Culver. Administration has reached out to local officials with our concerns for student safety. The intention is for 4th grade pick-up to return to our secondary location as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Illegal parking by OCS community members in the neighborhood continues to be a challenge. While 95% or more of the community is adhering to the law, administration fields almost daily concerns from neighbors about parking in the red and partially blocking driveways. OCS administration will continue to do all we can to address these issues, and will seek further collaboration with local law enforcement as well as OCS parents to address these issues.

Communication

Parent Collective

- Monthly PC/admin meetings help all parties plan for and collaborate on community events.
- Parent volunteers with support of the PC are exploring ways to re-imagine Reef Café given new guidelines related to our universal meal program.
- Parent volunteers with support of the PC and guidance by Circle Ways are leading monthly Parent Circles for all OCS parents/caregivers.
- Winter Faire planning is well underway with new OCS parent, Jennifer Lupoi, at the helm and with support from the PC Coordinators.

Outreach & Enrollment

School Tours

- Monthly campus tours and information meetings for new and prospective parents began in October.
- We are limiting each tour to 50 people to minimize classroom disruptions.
- Administration will also offer virtual tours/information sessions once a month online starting in November.

Outreach Events

- Del Rey Day is an annual community outreach event held at Bill Rosendahl Park. OCS had a table staffed by administration and parent



volunteers and set-up with main lesson books and student work where interested families and community members could learn about OCS. The OCS Peace Players opened the event by playing 4 numbers on the djembes.

- The LMU (Loyola Marymount University) Kindergarten Fair is an outreach event for prospective Kindergarten parents to understand the pedagogy and philosophy of a variety of schools. OCS will participate in November, as we have for many years.
- Coeur d'Alene Middle School Forum is an annual event held in November that is once again being held in person this year. OCS will have a table to share about our program and recruit prospective middle school students.