

Directors' Report
January 5, 2023

"Love is higher than opinion. If people love one another the most varied opinions can be reconciled - thus one of the most important tasks for humankind today and in the future is that we should learn to live together and understand one another. If this human fellowship is not achieved, all talk of development is empty."

~ Rudolf Steiner

Educational Program

LAUSD Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit

The annual Performance-Based Oversight visit is scheduled January 26th. The Admin Team prepared for the visit by providing the Charter Schools Division the majority of the requested documents prior to the Winter break. OCS will be reviewed in each of the following areas and will receive a score based on a 4-point rubric.

Category I: Governance

Category II: Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Category III: Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Category IV: Fiscal Operations

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education

Chamomile Nusz, Alliance Board Member and Membership Director came all the way from Wisconsin to visit OCS on December 13th. She was delighted to tour the campus, visit classrooms, and observe our amazing teachers and students in action! We discussed the process of Ocean becoming a full member of the Alliance through the process of self-study, including the 7 Core Principles of Waldorf Education.

Gradalis Curriculum Frameworks

OCS teachers will begin working with the Gradalis Curriculum Frameworks that help to clarify the key anchor skills, foundational skills and scaffolding skills by grade level in public Waldorf school classrooms. The grade-level frameworks

were developed by Prairie Adams and Bonnie River of Gradalis to support teachers navigating the challenging task of public school standards and Waldorf, developmentally-attuned practices. The frameworks are dense and will require ongoing exploration, study and implementation by our faculty.

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)

- The second ELO this year at OCS was offered during the winter break. 19 students enrolled for the first of the two – week/ 4 days/week program and 10 enrolled for the second week. Due to low attendance during week 2, OCS will offer only the first week next year.
- The first extended learning opportunity of this year was offered during the Thanksgiving break. Twenty-three students were enrolled for the three-day opportunity hosted by OCS staff.
- Additional ELOs will be available during the holiday breaks, including: Winter break, Renewal week, and Spring break.
- These offerings 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 also include art-based enrichment, movement and games, and social interactions to support healthy social emotional development.

Community Events

Winter Faire

The first Winter Faire at our new home was a huge success! Community feedback from current and alumni families as well as from neighbors was extremely positive about the atmosphere and mood, the student performances, the activities, the vendors, the food, the music, and the beautiful décor. Administration will be working with our tireless co-chairs, Jennifer and Lauren, to review highlights and areas for improvement in preparation for the celebration next year. A financial update on the faire will be shared during the finance section of the Board meeting.

We thank all the amazing OCS parents who contributed their time, their strength, their creativity, their determination, and their love to make the event happen! In particular, it is with the deepest sense of gratitude that we thank **Jennifer Lupoi** and **Lauren Hall**, the visionary co-chairs who were able to envision a magical experience and execute the plans with grace, humor, humility, and joy!!!



We are especially grateful to the following Winter Faire Captains for offering their specific talents and dedication:

Monika Wagenberg – Evergreen Trees
Christina Meltzer - Garlands
Maris Van de Roer – Graphic Design
Kat Jacob - Community Communications
Polly Auritt - Snow Fairy Market
Lauren Hall - Crafting
Miriam Burke - Vendor Co-Captain
Jessica Beyrer - Vendor Co-Captain
Chris Smith - Food Trucks
Jennifer Jacobus - OCS Loyalty Card

TK-8 Winter Spiral

Every class, TK-8, walked the Winter Spiral, an OCS annual tradition the week following the Winter Faire. This seasonal event comes every year around winter solstice as the days get shorter and the nights longer. It is an opportunity for each of us to find our own inner light in the darkness, and then to share it with others to help light their path. Students walk the spiral one by one, each sharing their light somewhere on the path, so that the class together creates a beautiful, glowing spiral to behold. The spiral offers an opportunity to find inner peace and introspection after the joyful, outward gesture of excitement of the Winter Faire.

December Parent Circle and Winter Spiral

In December, parents/caregivers had the opportunity to participate in the tradition of the Winter Spiral, just as the students do each year. During the Winter Spiral Walk, each person walks a lush green spiral path. The Spiral Walk is the celebration of quiet confidence, of carrying light in darkness, and of sharing our light with others. The contemplative ceremony is symbolic of the triumphant human spirit that shines in all of us. Following the Winter Spiral Walk, parents participated in a Parent Circle led by Joe Provisor and his team from Circle Ways.

Candle Dipping

Lauren Hall and Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs led the 1st through 8th grade students in the dearly loved tradition of candle dipping! Each child was delighted to participate and bring home a beautifully smelling beeswax candle to share with their family during the holiday season.

We thank Lauren and Hajnal for their time and dedication to ensuring each child experienced the joy of candle dipping!



Parent Circles

The Parent Circle leadership group is evaluating how the first half of the year of Parent Circles has met the needs of our parent community, and is planning changes for the coming semester to increase participation and relevance for our community.

Governance

Ed Eadon, Vice Chair of the Board and Governance Committee Chair will provide a Board training to the Trustees during the January meeting. The training will include a presentation to Board members concerning interacting with the OCS community and administration.

Finance

LCAP Revisions

LAUSD's Charter School Division (CSD) sent OCS a Notice of Concern regarding required revision of the LCAP on Nov.18, 2022. Administration met with our CSD specialist the day we received the notice to review their comments. Administration has revised OCS' LCAP for Board review and approval at the January Board meeting.

UPK Grant Expenditure Report

The UPK Grant Expenditure Report, due to the CDE 12/31/22 was completed and submitted on 12/20/22. The expenditures totaled \$40,667 and included partial salaries/benefits of classified employees, and one certificated employee, as well as classroom materials.

Arts, Music and Instructional Materials Block Grant Plan

Highlights of the OCS Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Block Grant draft plan include: professional development for our faculty, specialty teacher salaries, and specialty class instructional materials. The draft plan will be reviewed and voted on by the Board during the Finance section of the meeting.

Operations

Health updates

With the return to school on January 3rd, all OCS students and staff members were provided 2 COVID tests to use prior to returning on Tuesday. All students and staff are required to report any positive results only.

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 purchased our own compostable utensils rather than purchasing through the lunch vendor to reduce costs.

Outreach & Enrollment

School Tours

- Campus tours and information meetings held during the instructional day for new and prospective parents continue on a monthly basis.
- Tours are limited to 50 people to minimize classroom disruptions.
- To accommodate the high demand for tours/information sessions, the schedule has been updated to include additional in person evening times.

High School Info Night

Administration will host OCS' annual High School Information Night on Jan. 9th from 6-7pm via zoom. This event is an opportunity for OCS families, especially middle school families, to learn about high school options and the process of finding the right school for their child after graduating from OCS.

Alumni Night

OCS will welcome alumni back to share about their transition to high school, their own high school experience and (perhaps) about their transition to college as OCS graduates on February 27th. This event will be held in person and is an opportunity for alumni to see each other as well as for current OCS students and parents to learn about life after OCS.