

Directors' Report
April 13, 2023

*Human beings of initiative
Human beings interested in the world
Human beings who seek the truth
Human beings who will not sour.*

These words were spoken by Rudolf Steiner in a lecture to teachers describing the healthy and inspired teacher. They also describe the kind of human beings Waldorf Education seeks to foster. (Practical Advice to Teachers, lecture 14)

Educational Program

LAUSD Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit:

The Charter Schools Division Team shared the outcome of the annual Performance-Based Oversight visit. OCS received the following scores based on a 4-point rubric:

Category I: Governance – 4, Accomplished

Category II: Student Achievement and Educational Performance – 3, Proficient

Category III: Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations – 4
Accomplished

Category IV: Fiscal Operations – 3, Proficient

Please see the complete report of the Annual Performance review attached.

Spring Break Extended Learning Opportunity (ELOs):

- ELO camp was offered during Spring break.
- The offering included 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 included art-based enrichment, movement and games, and social interactions to support healthy social emotional development.

OCS Summer Institute

OCS will once again host on-site public Waldorf teacher training this summer during the week of June 26th – 30th. We have a wonderful group of faculty to lead the program, including: Bonnie River of Gradalis, Kenya Strong of Alma Partners,



former OCS teacher Lisa Borhaug, and OCS' own Tomasa Mendoza and Brenan Yack. OCS teachers plus teachers from other CA Waldorf charter schools will attend. This year is a re-launching year after a few year pause due to the pandemic. Our focus is on deepening public Waldorf Education with non-Eurocentric curriculum and practices.

Community Events

Spring Faire

The annual Spring Faire celebration is soon approaching on Friday, April 28th. Students in the grades will dance grade specific Maypole dances throughout the school day and parents will be invited to watch their children perform. After school, the entire community will be invited to attend the Spring Faire celebration with the Ocean Peace Players opening the event at 12:45pm.

Ocean Gala at the ROXY

It's not too late to purchase tickets for the Ocean Gala at The Roxy Theatre in Hollywood on Saturday, April 15th! There will be music, food, drinks, and beautiful handcrafted items to bid for in the silent auction. This year marks the 50th anniversary of The Roxy and to celebrate, guests are requested to dress in their 70s best attire to bid on incredible auction items and dance the night away! The proceeds from the Gala will benefit the children of OCS.

Governance

CCSA Conference

Kristy attended the CCSA conference in March in Sacramento as both a team presenter and a participant. In collaboration with Tammy Stanton of OCS Board and Granada Hills Charter School, Samira Estilai of ExEd, Brian Holman of Musick Peeler, and Kami Cotler of Environmental Charter Schools and OCS' co-founding director, we presented "But I Thought My Back-Office Provider did that!?" for the second year. The panel highlighted best practices for working with back-office providers including good governance practices, and shared lessons learned the hard way. Audience members were primarily newer charter school leaders and CFO's or Business Managers.

Kristy attended two sessions, Charter Teacher Credentialing with Greta Proctor of Procopio and Answering the Call: Creating an Anti-Racist School Culture with the leadership team from New West Charter. The teacher credentialing session broke down the many complexities of teacher credentialing and explored options for charters looking to support teachers in the process, especially given new requirements for specialty teachers and TK teachers. The anti-racist school

culture presentation was a moving account of how New West leadership was confronted by alumni students with accusations of racism, and how they responded on multiple, deep levels to the call for change. They shared stories, resources, and process information that will be used to inform OCS' steps toward becoming an anti-racist school over the coming years.

Alliance For Public Waldorf Education: Self Study

The Self-Study process includes a deep dive into the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education over time with all stakeholders. During the PC/Admin Collaborative meeting on March 24th, the Executive Directors and the Parent Collective reviewed Core Principle 2 – Child Development: *An understanding of child development guides all aspects of the educational program, to the greatest extent possible within established legal mandates.*

Finance

2023-2024 Draft Budget

Based on the Governor's proposed budget, the Finance Committee reviewed two proposed budget scenarios, one that assumes that the Arts and Music Block Grant is cut by 30%, and one that includes the full original allocation of the Arts and Music Block funds. The Finance Committee will meet April 17th and determine any updates to be included in the draft budget scenarios to be presented to the Board for approval.

Operations

Teacher Recruitment

We have been focusing on interviews and demonstration lessons with qualified teacher applicants. Each year, it is challenging to find class teachers with both Waldorf experience and California teaching credentials. That said, we are excited about this year's group of applicants and eager to work with those who've accepted positions for next year.

OCS Summer Camp

In alignment with ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) funding, OCS is again offering Summer Camp that includes 2 hours of morning academic time followed by physical, social, and creative activities. Students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch can participate at no cost. Registration is open now with an early bird discount available by April 17th. Quite a few OCS alumni have already inquired about working or volunteering in the camp. Hiring will begin in early May.



Outreach & Enrollment

Alumni Night

OCS welcomed a panel of sixteen alumni students to share about their transition to high school and their overall own high school experience on Monday, March 6th. This event was held on campus in the gym and was an opportunity for alumni to see each other as well as for current OCS students and parents to learn about life after OCS. The student representatives shared their experiences attending: Venice High, Hamilton, Culver High, Pali, New Roads, Geffen Academy, Da Vinci, VistaMar, Ramon Cortines, El Segundo, and LACHSA. Students shared that their choice in high school met their desire to focus in some of the following areas: academics, sports, theatre, arts, world languages, social justice, college prep, or tech. Most of the schools also have a variety of clubs for the students to participate in, such as hiking, cooking debate, golf, chess, tennis, fencing, photography, dance, and music. It was a delight to hear the experiences of the panel of OCS alumni students.