

Director's Report November 2, 2023

Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives.

~ Rudolf Steiner

Educational Program

Deepening OCS' Practice of Public Waldorf Education

- OCS will host the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education January conference in 2025. OCS and the Alliance will work collaboratively over the next year to plan a meaningful, relevant, renewing conference for all public Waldorf participants.
- Waldorf Educator Anjum Mir will be working with OCS faculty in the second semester on the Waldorf practice of inner work.
- OCS teachers in grades 1st – 5th are participating in Gradalis professional development related to Waldorf ELA and Math alignment with Common Core Standards.

Student Performance

Please see most current graphs of OCS' 22-23 detailed CAASPP grade level results in ELA and Math.

Student Engagement and School Climate

- Thanks to incredible parent volunteers and dedicated staff, the OCS community enjoyed the best Book Faire ever (raising over \$12,000) and a wonderful Knight of the Bedtime Stories, including a more subdued rooftop garden storytime) during the week of Oct. 23rd.
- Recent incidents of antisemitism and hate speech in general at OCS – Please read the following letter from OCS administration to all OCS families last Friday regarding recent events and OCS' approach to addressing these incidents as well as our ongoing commitment to the longterm work of building a community that promotes tolerance, respect, and belonging. Administration applauds the leadership shown by our 8th grade students and middle school teachers in the active promotion of our school values.

Dear OCS Families,

We are writing with heavy hearts to share that there have been a few incidents of antisemitism in the upper grades this past week at school. The incidents involved hate

speech and gestures, not physical violence. OCS/we understand that hate speech and gestures are also forms of violence, and we handled them as such. On behalf of OCS, we want to express our deep regret to our Jewish students and families that these events happened in our school community, and we want to assure you and all of our families that OCS is committed to creating a hate-free, safe, respectful environment for all of our students.

OCS takes all forms of hate speech and action seriously. We hold students accountable and work towards helping them understand how their words/actions impact others, why it matters, and what they can do to become positive actors in our community. We approach situations of hate speech/actions with a developmental lens, holding students accountable while also knowing that their brains are not fully formed, and that we can positively impact children now so that they grow up to make positive choices in the future. At OCS, we also practice Circle as a means of bringing both healing to all of those affected and restoration to the whole group as those who hurt others are held in the circle of the community as well.

To bring the ugly reality of hate speech out of the dark and into the light so we as a community can acknowledge it, proactively work to address it, and work towards building a more positive future, Ms. Mendoza's 8th grade students led a presentation today for all 6th - 8th grade classes titled "An Anti-hate Message". The scope of the presentation included some, but not all, forms of hate speech targeting a variety of groups and based on language that has been heard here among our students.

The purposes of the presentation were:

- **To educate each other**
- **To come together as a community**
- **To understand that all of us can make a difference**
- **To reiterate the responsibility we have to ourselves, our peers and our community**
- **To raise awareness and ask questions, even if we don't have all the answers**

The students highlighted core principles and values of our community, including:

- **Diversity and Inclusion**

- **Forgiveness**
- **A Caring Community**
 - **Childhood**
- **Appreciation for all living things**
 - **Open minds**
 - **Support**

It was a difficult but necessary presentation that led to deeply thoughtful and sincere questions from students. We hope they are also bringing these questions home to you as their parents to explore answers together. And we ask all of our families to carefully consider and monitor what your children are being exposed to through access to media and the internet as the content they inevitably find there often includes traumatic images and messages of hate.

Our teachers will continue to work with these topics and questions in class as we all together strive to create a more peaceful world in which each of us sees and honors the humanity of each other.

We appreciate you as our partners in this journey.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kristy and Ms. Megan

Governance and Compliance

Williams Settlement: attached

OCS has passed two of the three areas of Williams monitoring so far this year:

- Facilities – passed on 8/29/23
- Instructional materials – passed 10/17/23
- Credentialing - pending

Compliance Monitoring: attached

The ED will submit the administrator's portion of the annual Compliance Monitoring checklist to LAUSD on Nov.3, 2023.

Uniform Complaint Policy: attached



The most recent Board approved UCP of 11/3/22 is attached for board review.

Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy: attached

The most recent Board approved Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy of 3/10/22 is attached for board review.

Suicide Prevention Policy: attached

The most recent Board approved Suicide Prevention Policy of 3/10/22 is attached for board review.

Independent Study Policy: attached

The most recent Board approved Independent Policy of 8/8/22 is attached for board review.

LAUSD Charter Transparency Resolution: attached

The LAUSD Charter Transparency Resolution of 1/12/16 is attached for annual Board review.

Finance

- Draft ELOP plan **attached**: The administration will bring a final plan for Board review and approval in December after responding to input at the November meeting.
- Revised Arts and Music plan revision **attached** for Board review and approval. The revisions reflect updates in state funding, not in OCS priorities or planned actions.
- Facility rentals update
- Prop 28 proposal draft coming in December

Outreach & Enrollment

Events:

OCS administration conducted outreach to the local community about our school at the following events. Parent volunteers showed up to share their knowledge and experiences as well at Del Rey Day, and all there enjoyed the terrific performance by the OCS Peace Players, current students and alumni members.

- Del Rey Day: neighborhood community event: Oct. 22, 10 – 4pm
- Coeur D’Alene Middle School Forum: 10/5
- Westchester Parents Nursery School’ Kinderforum: 10/17

Tours:

Tours are full and folks are asking wonderful questions about our public Waldorf Education program.

