

Directors' Report  
December 1, 2022

"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**

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences

- In-person Parent/Teacher Conferences were held the week prior to Thanksgiving break.
- Conference forms are being sent via email following the in-person conferences.
- Students and parents in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> reviewed their first trimester report cards at the parent/teacher conferences and are receiving them via email this week.

#### Fall NWEA Internal Assessments

- OCS assessed students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> for the first time with our new internal assessment system, NWEA Growth, in 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.

## Addressing Mental Health

- Like schools around the country, the OCS community is experiencing a surge in mental health related concerns amongst TK-8<sup>th</sup> 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 4 counselors to provide school-based counseling services for students not receiving counseling through an IEP and for families. Twenty-seven students are currently participating in these informal counseling services. OCS will also begin offering Social Skills groups in January during the school day to support students in their development of social skills. In addition, OCS offers parents/caregivers a monthly workshop on parenting with Holli Leonard, one of our counselors.

## Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)

- OCS offered the first extended learning opportunity of this year 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**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, for the first time in three years and on the new campus, the entire community is looking forward to a traditional Saturday Winter Faire!

The event is less than two weeks away and Jennifer Lupoi graciously took on the chair position as a new OCS parent! Jennifer is incredibly organized and with the support from PC Coordinators Lauren Hall, Kat Jacobs, Jennifer Jacobus, and Heather Keenan, she has garnered an amazing team to help bring Winter Faire to life this season! We all look forward to making Winter Faire a magical and memorable community celebration.

Monika Wagenberg: Trees/Wreaths/Garland

- Monika will again lend her wisdom and tenacity to the somewhat tricky Tree sourcing and sales effort. Monika will work with the 7th grade classes who have been assigned Tree/Wreath/Garland Support.

Maris: Graphic Design

- Maris has generously donated her time and talents to creating the original graphics for Winterfaire used in our digital and physical communications.

Kat Jacob: Community Communications

- Kat has been instrumental in looping in Maris to lead Graphic Design as well as sourcing key community members in OCS and the Del Rey community to help assist with various WF elements.

Polly Auritt: Snow Fairy Market

- Polly has returned to lead the charge in creating a magical Snow Fairy Market for all children to enjoy. She will guide and be supported by the 5th grade classes who have been assigned SFM.

Lauren Hall: Crafting Captain

- Lauren is an invaluable mentor and thankfully agreed to help impart her knowledge and experience by guiding the classes with crafting assignments.

Miriam Burke: Vendor Co-Captain

Jessica Beyrer: Vendor Co-Captain

- Miriam and Jessica will be working together on curating a thoughtful selection of outside vendors who align with and support the OCS mission.

Chris Smith: Food Truck Captain

- Chris, of Humblemaker Coffee, has kindly agreed to help secure Food Vendors/Trucks for the festival.

- Chris is also leading the charge in securing vendors for the OCS Loyalty Card that we hope to roll out at WF.

Jennifer Jacobus: OCS Loyalty Card

- Jennifer will be working with Chris to secure formal agreements from interested Vendors for the OCS Loyalty Card.

We are immensely grateful to Jennifer Lupoi and the stellar team of Winter Faire Captains! Winter Faire is sure to be a splendid event for the entire community!

### **Pop-up Reef Café**

Parent volunteers with support of the PC are exploring ways to re-imagine Reef Café given new guidelines related to our universal meal program. Thanks to Chris Smith, OCS parent and owner of Humblemaker Coffee, the OCS community has been able to participate in an off-site Pop-up Reef Café next door to campus at Humblemaker. Chris Smith is donating twenty percent of all profits to OCS!

### **Governance**

#### **Board Training**

Governance Chair, Edward Eadon will provide training in Conflict of Interest and Board member responsibilities during the December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> Board meetings.

#### **Cybersecurity Plan**

The Governance Committee continues to discuss cybersecurity, including providing training for OCS staff.

#### **OCS Bylaws**

The Governance Committee will review the Bylaws at the January committee meeting and may possibly share recommendations with the BOT.

#### **Compliance**

- The Governance Committee discussed the internal OCS Board Compliance Calendar.
- The Governance Committee discussed Compliance Monitoring and the importance of the Certification of Board Compliance Review.

## **Finance**

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

- Presentation of draft 2021-2022 Annual Audit by Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) auditing firm. 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.

## **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 will be revising the LCAP accordingly and will bring the revised LCAP for Board review and approval at the January Board meeting.

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

- The DEIB Committee finalized and voted to recommend the 2022 – 2025 Ocean Charter School Equity Plan for approval to the full OCS Board of Trustees.

## **Fundraising**

Specific amounts raised by the various OCS fundraising efforts are reviewed during Finance Committee meetings. The next Finance Committee meeting will be dedicated primarily to the two audit reports, but regular updates on fundraising will resume at the January 31, 2023 meeting.

## **OCS Spirit-wear Store**

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

## **AFG**



The Annual Family Giving campaign is well underway this year. AFG reps are planning a Giving Tuesday push that will be followed by a push at the end of the calendar year prior to the tax deduction deadline.

### Parent Basketball Night

Once a week, OCS parents who love to play basketball come to our beautiful new gym to play ball. This donation-based fundraiser will continue in the new year.

### Winter Faire

The amazing Winter Faire team is not only creating a magical community event, they are also working to support OCS' fundraising goals to help fund our programs. Getting word of the faire out to the wider community to invite them is one important way this event generates funds for our school.

### 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.

### **Personnel**

#### 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.

#### Intervention Staff

Due to demonstrated student needs, OCS has expanded our intervention staff to include more math support for students not yet at grade level.

#### Classroom Assistants

With one-time federal funding, OCS has been able to provide a classroom assistant to all classes this year. These positions are temporary given the nature of the funding, and are designed to support student learning and social-emotional needs as students recover from distance learning and the pandemic.

#### Traffic/Parking/Campus Monitoring



When OCS hosts events with other schools (such as during sports seasons), it is necessary to have additional staff to monitor parking and traffic and to ensure the campus is safe and secure throughout the events.

## **Operations**

### Health updates

Over the last three weeks, OCS has continued to have cases of Covid (5 current cases: 3 staff, 2 students); RSV (4); Influenza A (4); Hand, Foot and Mouth disease (2), and Strep (2). Cleaning regimes are followed consistently to reduce the spread of infection and as are protocols regarding Covid isolation and exposure from the LA County Public Health Department. OCS will continue to send Covid tests home with students and staff over the holidays so they can test prior to returning to school. Masks indoors are encouraged but not required.

### Safety Drills

- The entire campus of TK-8 students, teachers, staff, and volunteers participated in a Lockdown Drill November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- All classrooms, office spaces, and additional spaces were secure and everyone followed emergency protocols.

### 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

### Neighbor Relations

As OCS once again hosts regular community events, consistent efforts are made to consider our neighbors and reduce the impact of traffic on our street. Additional staff is needed to support these efforts, as is the continual commitment of our parent body to follow traffic and parking laws.

## **Communication**

### Parent Collective

- Parent volunteers with support of the PC and guidance by Circle Ways continue to lead monthly Parent Circles for all OCS parents/caregivers.
- All parents/caregivers are encouraged to join in the monthly Circles.
- In December, parents/caregivers will have the opportunity to participate in the tradition of the Winter Spiral, just as the students do each year. During the Winter Spiral Walk, each student 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.

## **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.

### Outreach Events

- 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 November 30<sup>th</sup>, as we have for many years.
- OCS' Woodworking teacher, Ms. Erika, and OCS parent, Kirsten Trapp, along with her 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter, Madeline Chaidez, represented OCS at the annual Coeur d'Alene Middle School Forum held on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.