

Directors' Report  
February 2, 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 was January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Charter Schools Division Team included Katrina Blackwell (CSD Specialist), Andrea Ines, (Fiscal Services Manager) and Yolanda Jordan (support to Katrina). The schedule for the day included:

- Opening meeting to review responses to the Guiding Questions, including greatest accomplishments and areas for growth
- Observations to confirm Arts Integrated Instruction, Use of Main Lesson Books, and Socially Emotionally attuned classrooms
- Fiscal Segregation of Duties
- Binder Review
- Debrief
- Follow-up

OCS will receive a score based on a 4-point rubric in each of the following areas:

Category I: Governance

Category II: Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Category III: Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Category IV: Fiscal Operations

#### **Williams Settlement – Instructional Materials:**



An Instructional Materials review team from Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE) visited OCS classrooms on November 16, 2022 to determine if there were sufficient standards-aligned instructional materials in specified areas. LACOE determined a sufficiency of Instructional Materials exists in each of the specified classes visited during their review. The team commented, “visiting the school site was a positive experience, we appreciate the hospitality and support of the staff that assisted throughout this year’s review process.”

### **Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Conference:**

The annual Alliance Conference took place online January 13-15<sup>th</sup>. There were five keynote speakers, including Dr. Ida Oberman, Jack Petrash, Kenya Strong, Dr. Elizabeth Beaven, Betty Staley, and Rainbow Rosenbloom. The fifty breakout sessions included topics for teachers and administrators, including Spatial Dynamics, Eurythmy, Creating a Culture of Belonging, An Inclusive Festival Life for Each Season, Wait Until 8<sup>th</sup>?, Singing Games, Block Crayon Drawing, Teachers and Staff have temperaments too!, Artistic Geometry, Kid Writing, Number Knights, Experiential Geology, and a host of others! During the debrief on the Monday following the conference, the Alliance Conference team shared that there were over 600 participants from all over the country!

### **Professional Development for Faculty and Staff:**

January 27<sup>th</sup> was a non-school day for students while faculty and staff participated in an all-day Professional Development training.

The topics of the professional development for **class teachers** included:

- An Overview and Orientation for Sex Education TK – 8<sup>th</sup> with *More Than Sex Ed* presented by Beth Rendeiro, OCS founding parent and Co-Founder of MTSE, and Emmalinda MacLean, Co-Founder of MTSE. The presentation included “Human Sexuality is Complex”, Circles of Sexuality, guidelines for discussing crushes and consent with young children, and answering questions. A schoolwide parent/caregiver presentation is being scheduled with MTSE to share this information with parents in the next month or two based on their availability. Additional teacher training, including loop specific training on age-appropriate topics, is also being scheduled for this year and possibly next school year. OCS’ goal is to equip our teachers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to teach sex education in the context of their loving classroom environments while being able to draw upon the resources and expertise of MTSE experts when needed.
- Movement with Ania Kubik, OCS Waldorf mentor teacher: Ms. Kubik introduced jump rope movements, both individual and group, for teachers to bring to their classes and for students to incorporate during recess. She also brought activities

with BAL-A-VIZ-X BALLS (small, bouncy balls) for individuals, pairs and groups. All these movement activities work on gross motor coordination, balance, crossing the midline, and teamwork. Learning to bounce balls in unison, for example, creates a similar sensation to singing in harmony. Working as a group to successfully run through spinning jump ropes encourages a sense of accomplishment as a team. Figuring out how to tackle a particularly challenging physical task involves problem solving and strategy. These activities are core parts of our students' educational experience, as they work to strengthen "the head, the heart and the hands".

- Inclusion training with Sherita Rogers, Inclusion Specialist from LAUSD: Ms. Rogers' presentation drew from her role as Inclusion Specialist with LAUSD for students with alternative curriculums, but her focus was on inclusion practices that support all students in the general education classroom. She briefly reviewed the critical need for good communication between class teachers, specialty teachers, special education service providers, and classroom assistants; the roles of each of these people; and general guidance on types of accommodations and how they can work in our Waldorf classrooms. Working in collaboration, teachers and assistants then focused in on one particular goal for the coming month that they will be implementing as a team. Check-ins on their focus goal will occur during upcoming faculty meetings.
- Circle Practice to deepen work with non-violent communication and conflict resolution circles with *Circle Ways*, led by Joe Provisor and Lori Austein: Teachers split into two groups, one focused on TK – 4<sup>th</sup> and the other on 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, to explore various methods to support conflict resolution and restorative practices.

The topics for **Specialty Teachers and Classroom Assistants** included:

- Special Education law
- Accommodations versus Modifications
- Roles of teachers, assistant, and special education providers
- Communication among team members
- How to work successfully with the class teacher
- Surfacing issues and challenges that are coming up in the classrooms

### **Social Skills Groups:**

Weekly social skills groups by age/grade level have begun with OCS' counselors – Mr. Adam, Ms. Daphne and Ms. Christianne. Students are exploring and building up their "tool boxes" with age appropriate strategies for social interactions, teasing and bullying, consent giving and asking, relaxation, and de-escalation. While the groups have only had their first sessions, the feedback has been positive from participants. Administration will monitor the efficacy of these groups by checking in with students, teachers, recess supervisors, and counselors over the remainder of the year.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert:**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Strings students performed beautifully under Mr. Ghiglia's direction at this year's Winter Concert. Each class performed on its own, as well as with the other class(es) at their grade level, and then all classes performed together in a large group piece adapted by Mr. Ghiglia. Many students also bravely seized the opportunity to perform solo or as a duet or triplet with classmates to the large audience. Hearing the outcome of their practice over the first half of the year in the performance space with an audience is the best motivation to keep our young musicians engaged. Congratulations to all our musicians!

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade electives showcased their work from the first semester in a number of ways.

- Our large group of Percussion Elective students performed a number of rhythms on their djembes under the guidance of Mr. Gerald Rivers.
- The OCS Peace Players were joined by Mr. Rivers and offered more advanced rhythms both during the intermission and to open and close the concert.
- Leadership Elective students shared slides and spoke about the work their committees have accomplished this year, including cultural heritage month celebrations and murals and affinity groups.
- Photography Elective students' work was on glorious display and demonstrated how they have been using photography to explore visual concepts as well our immediate campus and surrounding neighborhood.
- Visual Arts Elective class shared colorful, beautifully rendered pieces exploring visual concepts through various media, including: pencil, acrylic, watercolor, chalk, pastel, collage, and ink.
- Band Elective rocked the house with an array of instruments (including flute, guitar, piano, keyboards, drums, and more) while vocalists shared the lyrics of California Dreamin' and Bob Dylan.

Our students and teachers are rightfully proud of their creative work. We look forward to the new round of elective classes that begin next week for semester 2.

**Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs):**

- The next ELO this year at OCS will be offered during the February Renewal week.
- An additional ELO will be available during 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**



## OCS Gala, formerly known as the Silent Auction

The OCS Gala Captains are planning an extraordinary event this year!

Final details regarding this not to miss OCS adult community event will be shared shortly!

## **Governance**

### Alliance For Public Waldorf Education: Full Membership & Self Study

During the January 26<sup>th</sup> Governance meeting, committee members began a discussion on how to best move forward with engaging in a self-study to become a full member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. The Self-Study process will include a deep dive into the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education over time with all stakeholders.

## **Finance**

### 2023-2024 Budget Preparation

The Finance Committee will begin discussions on the Governor's proposed budget, timeline, and impact of development on next year's budget.

## **Operations**

### 2023-2024 Calendar Negotiations

OCS and OCTA began negotiating the calendar for next school year; we're hoping to bring the proposal to the Board of Trustees for approval asap.

### Facility update

The compressor on the administration building east needs to be replaced. The compressor is under warranty, although the labor to install the unit is not under warranty. Our Maintenance Coordinator worked with our Project Manager from Red Hook to gather contractor bids. The parts have been ordered and the work should be complete within one month.

Pinner Construction has been on site to monitor and repair leaks after heavy rains in one of the Kindergarten classrooms, as well as the underground parking structure. The Pinner team is attempting to determine the source of the leak as previous attempts to repair it have only been temporary.

## **Outreach & Enrollment**



### High School Info Night

Administration hosted OCS' annual High School Information Night on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> via zoom. This event provided 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. Presentations were shared by OCS alumni parents about their high school search process and helpful documents were shared by Ms. Kristy. Roughly 60 OCS parents participated in the zoom. The meeting recording and documents were shared with the whole community that Friday for those who could not attend.

### 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.