

## Director's Report February 1, 2024

Receive the children in reverence.  
Educate them with love.  
Send them forth in freedom.  
~ Rudolf Steiner

### Educational Program

#### Professional Development for Public Waldorf Education

- Alliance for Public Waldorf Education January Conference 2024  
6 OCS teachers and 2 administrators attending the January Conference in Sacramento. Panels focused on the shared experiences but different approaches in the wide variety of public Waldorf charters across the county. Workshops included artistic experiences, aligning Waldorf and Common Core Standards, explaining Waldorf Education in comprehensible ways, student support, and teacher training and retention. (more on training below) It was wonderful to be with colleagues who are inspired in similar ways and who are facing similar challenges from around the country.
- Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Jan. 2025  
Administration met with the host school Executive Director, Caleb Buckley, to gather tips on planning, logistics, staffing, promotion, and costs and benefits for next year's conference when OCS will be the host.
- Center for Anthroposophy (CFA) and Antioch University partnership  
During the Alliance Conference, administration connected with Torin Finser who is Core Faculty and the Education Department Director of Waldorf Programs with Antioch University New England and a founder of the Center for Anthroposophy. We discussed our shared vision for more Waldorf training in the southern California area, and shared our ability to host trainings on our new campus. Administration is working with Torin on the possibility of co-hosting a series of Waldorf trainings in partnership with Antioch and CFA. The options would include three segments, starting with Explorations, leading into the Building Bridges, and culminating in full Waldorf Teacher Certification. See the screenshots below for a brief

description of the first two segments. We are looking at hosting an information session with Torin about these programs for all LA area folks in late March, and will be sharing an invitation as soon as the details are finalized.

- **Building Bridges**, led by Torin Finser, was started for public and independent school teachers wishing to pursue their Waldorf teacher education onsite (we have offered the program in AK, CA, NH — and soon in FL and MD)
  - **Explorations**, re-launched in 2017 out of our earlier Foundation Studies program, was designed for those new to Waldorf education and anthroposophy who were seeking foundational work in the philosophy and the arts through the lens of contemporary issues. During the Covid years, Explorations became a fully online program
- Professional Development day on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> will involve training specific for aftercare staff as well as artistic activities for teachers and extensive time with Alma Partners to deepen our curricular work with DEIB.

## **Intervention**

Total # of Students in Intervention: roughly 90

Staffing: Three full-Time Lead teachers, two dedicated math aides, five ELA aides (includes existing open positions)

Intervention Tiers:

Tier 1: In class supports; small group in-class instruction; social groups; informal counseling; push-in support from aides

Tier 2: Pull-out academic support; push-in support; informal counseling; behavior contracts; progress monitoring; meetings

Tier 3: Referral for formal evaluation for special education eligibility

#s in Tiers:

ELA Tier 2: Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>: 45

MATH Tier 2: Grades 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> : Total: 52

ELA, Math, and Behavior Tier 2: Grades 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> : 45

Ways to Track Progress:

Lower grades ELA: weekly reading; assessments four times per year; monitoring of NWEA and CAASPP scores

Lower grades Math: Regular observation and assessment scores. Intervention provided informal assessments 4 times per year (baseline and end of each trimester), monitoring NWEA and CAASPP scores.

Upper grades ELA: 1 min timed DIBELS every other week for oral fluency; comprehension tracking, including written responses/samples; summary response to literature (oral and written); writing own short stories; NWEA and CAASPP scores



Upper grades Math: Weekly quizzes and tests, nightly practice problems, NWEA and CAASPP scores

Upper grades executive functioning and behavior: behavior contracts; scheduling and assignment contracts and use of planners; NWEA and CAASPP scores

**Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP):**

OCS will offer 4 days of expanded learning opportunities during our February Renewal Week. This “camp” will include academic, artistic, social, and physical experiences to enrich and support our students during these non-instructional days and in alignment with our ELOP plan.

**School Climate Surveys for Parents, Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and Employees:**

OCS will conduct our first of two rounds of school climate surveys this school year at the beginning of February. The surveys come from the California Health Kids Survey resources offered through the California Department of Education. Results from all 3 surveys will be shared with the Board at the March Board meeting.

**Governance and Compliance**

**Annual Oversight Visit:**

OCS’ annual oversight visit by 4 representatives from the LAUSD Charter School Division was on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Our oversight team included: Andrea Ines – fiscal; Brenda Martinez – lead; Brent Augenblick – team member; and Taylor Wichmanowski - Senior coordinator. The visit involves oversight of four key areas: Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations; and Fiscal Operations. This annual visit and the resulting report are critical components of district oversight and of charter renewal. Charters are typically granted for 5-year terms but due to the pandemic, the state granted an additional two years to all charter terms making OCS’ charter term from 2018 – 2025, instead of the original 2023 renewal date. During last year’s oversight visit, OCS received the following strong scores.

- ❖ Governance: 4, Accomplished
- ❖ Student Achievement and Educational Performance: 3, Proficient
- ❖ Organizational Management, Programs and Operations: 4, Accomplished
- ❖ Fiscal Operations: 3, Proficient

Scores from this year’s visit should be sent in the next few months. No scores are given at the time of the visit. OCS’ administrative team appreciated the time with our oversight team as the questions posed and feedback shared help us reflect on our practices, our strengths and our areas for growth. Of note this year

was their real appreciation for our blending of public Waldorf Education with Common Core Standards, our genuine positive school climate and focus on healthy relationships, and our integration of the arts in many forms. They offered feedback to help us deepen our use of rubrics to inform instruction and empower students. Finally, we were moved that three of the members with children noted how much they wish their children could have attended our school! We all agreed that there is no higher endorsement of a school than wanting your own child to be there.

### **Finance**

- OCS is in the process of getting auditor guidance on Prop 28 requirements. A draft Prop 28 plan will be brought to the Board for review and possible approval once we receive greater clarity from our auditor.
- Update of Fiscal Policies and Procedures: Based on the oversight visit, the Board may consider an update to our FPPs regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor payments. The Finance Committee will discuss and possibly bring forth a recommendation.
- Conflict of Interest Policy revision: The public comment time has closed without any input from the public. Administration recommends the Board approve the Conflict of Interest Policy as revised to reflect the new fiscal roles and responsibilities of the Assistant Director.

### **Community**

- Play season is upon us! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes combined will present the musical, The Wizard of Oz, this Tuesday evening for the community.
- More Than Sex Ed will continue to support parents with information about our health and human development curriculum in grade level zoom sessions.
- Alumni Night is Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. OCS looks forward to hosting our alumni on campus for a chance to catch up with each other and to share with our students and families about their transition to high school.
- Grandparents' Day is our annual event on Valentine's Day when grandparents and special elders join the children on campus and in the classrooms to experience some of the magic!