

Director's Report May 2, 2024

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

Educational Program Professional Development

- Wellspring Partnership: Wellspring is a Waldorf inspired collective for Southern California. Waldorf Educator and OCS mentor teacher, Anjum Mir, has cofounded Wellspring to bring the southern California Waldorf community together. OCS hosted the first event on Saturday, April 20th in the gym for a talk with Jack Petrash, Waldorf educator and author, including Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching from the Inside Out. About 75 attendees participated with folks coming from charter, private, and homeschooling Waldorf programs. Attendees shared positive praise for our beautiful campus, gratitude for our hosting the event, hope for continued collaboration, and a sense of inspiration from Jack's words. OCS administration shared about our OCS Summer Institute program and the upcoming Building Bridges training, and received positive interest in both programs.
- Waldorf Training - Building Bridges: The OCS Board has confirmed commitment of Educator Effectiveness funds to support teachers participating in the Building Bridges program. Outreach to OCS teachers as well as to other southern California Waldorf schools is underway with the goal of having at least 15 participants to start the session in November (enrollment by September).
- Ocean Institute Summer 2024: The OCS Summer Institute is being coordinated by Ms. Mendoza, experienced OCS Waldorf teacher and Waldorf mentor. The excellent Summer Institute faculty is Anjum Mir, Lisa Borhaug, Bonnie River, Tomasa Mendoza, Dennis Demanet, Brenan Yack, Ania Kubik, and Carol Ann Diven. The flier is being posted on our website and is being circulated with local Waldorf schools and programs to recruit participants.

Assessment

- CAASPP preparation: OCS teachers in grades 3rd – 8th with our intervention team and district special education team conducted a practice test for all students in grades 3 – 8th on April 9th. The purpose of this practice test was to test technical preparedness as well as identify any procedural issues that need to be addressed prior to actual testing in May. Students took the practice test in their assigned small groups and with accommodations per their IEPs and 504 plans. No large-scale technical issues were identified. Individual computer issues and Student ID card issues were corrected that day. Parents who want alterations to their child's accommodations are submitting their requests in writing per CAASPP requirements. Teachers continue to prepare students by familiarizing them with the format, vocabulary, and content of the various tests they will be take. All students in grades 3rd – 8th take ELA and Math tests; students in 5th and 8th also take the Science test.

Operations

Hiring

Like all schools, OCS is in hiring season. We are posting ads, interviewing candidates, having them observe, having them give demonstration lessons, collecting a writing sample, and vetting their references. While we continue to see enthusiasm about our unique program and school, the pool of eligible applicants is getting smaller while the requirements and costs of being a public school teacher are holding steady. And OCS has the particular challenge of recruiting educators who are both eligible to teach in public schools and either already Waldorf trained or interested/open to participating in Waldorf training which adds further costs and demands additional time. Please see the articles linked below for the wide-scale reality of the teacher shortage.

National Center for Education Statistics article [here](#)

National Education Association article [here](#)

California School Boards Association article [here](#)

Administration is exploring additional ways of connecting with potential teachers to increase our future hiring pool.

Facilities

- Kitchen dishwasher: The Maintenance Coordinator is working with LAUSD to get approvals for the installation of our kitchen dishwasher. Funding for this project comes from the Kitchen Infrastructure grant.
- Electrical maintenance: Repair work is in process in multiple rooms with lighting issues.

Climate and Culture

See attached summary reports from our school climate survey. Areas of strength



and areas of growth are identified for each group: students, parents, and staff.

Governance

WASC Mid-Cycle Report

- The WASC mid-cycle report is attached for Board review. The feedback confirms the strengths and growth areas identified by OCS stakeholders. Administration will continue to lead efforts on our goals in particular with teachers on the use of rubrics and aligning on key expectations at each grade level. In addition, our efforts are focusing on subgroups that performed at lower levels, as noted below, on the 2023 CAASPP assessment: In ELA: students with disabilities and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. In Math: students with disabilities, students of two or more races, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Finance

Prop 28

The draft budget and plan for Ocean's Prop 28 funding is attached.