

Director's Report **September 5, 2024**

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

Educational Program

Deepening OCS' Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: Liz Beaven, President of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, is visiting OCS in early September to begin planning for the annual Alliance conference that will be held at OCS in January. She will also participate in our Wednesday faculty meeting to share about the work of the Alliance and the conference with the faculty.

Building Bridges: Registration for the Center for Anthroposophy and Antioch Waldorf training program Building Bridges is now open. Recruitment to ensure enough participants to hold the session at OCS starting in November is our top priority. OCS will be sending a number of our teachers and aims to recruit both OCS parents and community members from neighboring Waldorf communities. OCS Board members are encouraged to participate.

Waldorf mentoring: A team of Waldorf mentors including Bonnie River, Dennis Demanet, Ania Kubik, Anjum Mir and Brenan Yack will be supporting OCS teachers in a variety of aspects of public Waldorf Education this year, including: child development, visual arts-integration, inner work, building community, storytelling, flute/recorder, singing, movement, and Waldorf and standards alignment.

Student Performance - CA Dashboard Report 2023 including 2023 CAASPP Results:

Please see the attached CA Dashboard report for 2023 that includes information on our local indicators and Spring 2024 CAASPP results.

Internal Assessments:

NWEA: The first round of NWEA testing in ELA and Math for students in grades 1st – 8th is complete. Teachers and the directors are analyzing results that will be shared with the Board in October.

Intervention assessments: Generalized assessments in ELA and Math are being conducted by the intervention team to determine student needs for intervention

support. Once needs are determined, parents will be informed of their child's participation in intervention groups as applicable.

Start of Year Events:

Rose Ceremony:

Our annual opening of the year Rose Ceremony was held on Friday of the first week of school. In this reverent, welcoming ceremony, 1st grade students received a flower from their 8th grade buddies and crossed the rainbow bridge as they formally began their journey through the grades. First grade teacher Ms. Shintani and 8th grade teacher Ms. Caluza shared a story about community as well as a beautiful song, Mr. Ghiglia opened the ceremony with a flute tribute and playing, Tomoko Sensei performed on piano, and the everyone sang "Make New Friends" led by 8th grade teacher Ms. Brennan. Many first and eighth grade parents witnessed the event as did all of our 2nd – 7th grade students and faculty. The excitement and pride of the new first grade students were tangible throughout this joyous event.

First Class Meetings:

All classes TK – 8th grade will have held their first class meetings by Tuesday, Sept. 3rd. Teachers offered parents a Waldorf experience so they could get a taste of their child's daily experience in the classroom, they shared about the particular stage of child development of the class, and they created opportunities for parents to share their experiences, perceptions and hopes for the year as well as to connect as a classroom community. Room reps and other dedicated parent volunteers recruited for the many volunteer positions and AFG reps shared information and generated enthusiasm for this year's AFG campaign. AFG leads – Julia, Jennie and Laura – shared in most classrooms about the importance of AFG in sustaining our school's unique program.

First "Coffee with PC Coordinators and Directors":

After a week of class meetings, it was hard to know how many parents would show up for our first "Coffee with the PC and Directors". To our happy surprise, over 50 parents showed up for coffee/tea and a sharing circle in the gym. The admin team was introduced as were our committed PC Coordinators and Directors. We then moved into introductions around the circle with each person's name, child/children's name(s), and a reflection or hope from the start of the year. The spirit of collaboration in building and sustaining our community was pervasive through the varied stories our returning parents shared as was the excitement about joining the community in our new families.

Governance

Teacher Credentialing

Administration is working both with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the Los Angeles County of



Education (LACOE) to ensure all OCS teachers are or are in the process of meeting all credential requirements. See the Declaration of Need (DON) agenda item for more details.

Operations

Staffing

The directors are still hiring for aftercare staff, the Maintenance Coordinator, and the Garden/Landscape Coordinator. In-house substitute hiring is ongoing.

- Aftercare staffing continues to be challenging given the unusual hours and particular needs of the position.
- If OCS is successful in renting out the gym to outside parties, we will also hire an afternoon/evening custodial/security staff person to ensure campus is secure and maintained during rental and to support the many afternoon and evening school events held after the scheduled hours of our morning/daytime Maintenance Coordinator.