



## Director's Report December 5, 2024

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

### **Educational Program**

#### **LAUSD Annual Oversight Visit:**

OCS had our annual LAUSD oversight visit on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. A team of 4 people visited the school for the day to examine OCS' fiscal, operational/management, academic performance, and governance performance. Two of the team were on the visit last year and were happy to return again, saying that OCS is known as a truly unique and strong charter in the LAUSD portfolio of charters. The administrative team and teachers worked diligently in the weeks leading up to the visit to prepare and ensure both required documents and evidence of our public Waldorf program were visible to the team. Since the state has not yet released the CAASPP score breakdowns by schools or subgroups from 2023-24 yet, the analysis of our academic performance is on hold. The team expects to have that component ready in late winter. OCS is currently a "high performing" charter school based on CAASPP scores in previous years; we intend to maintain that status moving forward.

The team visited many classrooms and shared positive praise for what they witnessed in terms of both student and teacher engagement, social-emotional learning (known at OCS as relationship-based learning), integration of the arts, and rigorous academics. They offered the highest praise possible – that they would be happy to have their children attend our school!

Final follow-up questions were submitted after the visit and responded to during the Thanksgiving break. We expect the full oversight report to be sent in late winter.

#### **Parent Engagement, Education and Support:**

OCS is committed to keeping parents informed about their child's progress in all areas – academically, socially, artistically, work habits, behaviorally, and attendance. Teachers held individual parent-teacher conferences the week prior to the Thanksgiving break to share updates on each child's progress and partner with parents/guardians on areas for growth. Written feedback for families includes Fall NWEA scores in ELA and Math, Fall Conference Forms with both qualitative and quantitative information, and report cards for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Teacher Observations and Evaluations:**

Formal observations have been completed for all class and specialty teachers. These evaluations involve teachers submitting a lesson plan and responses to self-reflection questions prior to the lesson and then written feedback from a Director as well as a meeting to review the lesson and identify areas of strength and areas for growth after the lesson. The written documentation has been completed, however the meetings will continue up until the winter break. Additional observations will occur through late winter and early spring. These formal observations are in addition to informal observations that happen on a regular, ongoing basis. Formal observations are a main element of the full teacher evaluation process per the OCTA contract.

**Deepening OCS' Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:**

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: Please visit the conference link [here](#) for details on this year's conference hosted at OCS. All Board members and OCS staff are encouraged to attend some or all of the conference. Several OCS teachers are offering workshop sessions. The administrative team is coordinating staffing for the conference from administrative support to custodial to foods/drinks.

OCS Summer Institute: OCS plans to have our Summer Institute program and flier ready for sharing at the January Alliance conference.

Building Bridges: The next Building Bridges in-person session for our 13 participating teachers is Feb. 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> and will focus on research and self development with Deborah Dornemann and visual arts with Nikki Moon Shoneman.

**Operations**

**Winter Festivities**: Parent volunteers, teachers, and staff are gearing up for the many winter festivities coming up, including Winter Faire, Candle Dipping, and Winter Spirals.

These festivals connect us to the seasons as a community and help us work with the natural rhythms both within and around us.

**Celebrating 20 Years**: Planning has begun for updates to our OCS film to reflect growth and change over the last 20 years and to reflect the diversity of our school community. Alumni outreach is in the works for contributions to the film as well as an alumni gathering at Winter Faire to celebrate 20 years.