

## **Director's Report**

March 6, 2025

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

### **Educational Program**

#### **Professional Development:**

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

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: The Alliance Conference 2026 in all likelihood will be held at OCS as part of the overall healing process for LA after the fires.

OCS Summer Institute: Summer Institute registration is open. A few teachers have registered thus far but we expect many more to do so in the coming weeks/months. We have shared the flier with other SoCal schools and will be sending it further out in the coming month.

Building Bridges: The Building Bridges in-person session for our 13 participating teachers was held Feb. 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> and focused on research and self development with Deborah Dornemann and visual arts with Nikki Moon Shoneman. OCS is grateful to our participating teachers for their commitment to furthering their development as public Waldorf teachers over the February break.

River Moves Mountains Mentoring: Bonnie River is back with us at OCS for her second round of in-person mentoring this year. She is working both with teachers new/er to Waldorf and with experienced Waldorf teachers to help them align Waldorf with Common Core Standards. Her work spans TK – 5<sup>th</sup> grades and includes overlap with our Intervention team as it relates to the Common Core Standards, scope and sequence, and student support.

##### **Common Core Professional Development:**

###### ELA:

Dyslexia Screener

Mr. Kim and Ms. Megan are attending the Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener for Administrators webinar in Feb and March. <https://lacoec.k12oms.org/1540-260072>

Administration is reviewing the 4 approved screeners and related teacher training options to implement this new requirement at OCS.



### **SEL Training:**

Teachers participated in two sessions with Barbara Ollinger. The sessions focused on supporting students in an inclusive classroom setting and communicating with parents.

**CAASPP Practice Test:** All students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> will participate in our annual practice CAASPP test this Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the practice test is to test technical preparedness, test accommodations, and plans for small groups. Ongoing preparation for the content and scope of the test is happening in developmental, creative ways in the classrooms with class teachers.

**Mid-Year NWEA:** All students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade have completed their mid-year NWEA testing in ELA and Math. These results are shared with parents and are used to inform instructional decisions by teachers to support all students.

**Intervention Conferences:** Class teachers are holding intervention conferences this week on our three short days to meet individually with parents of students who are not yet at grade level in one or more areas and/or who are having challenges in the areas of citizenship or SEL (socioemotional learning). The goal of the conferences is to share information from teachers to parents and parents to teachers, and to work together as a team to support our students.

**Applying for Author Grant:** OCS is applying for an children's author visit with Mac Barnett who was named the 9th National Ambassador for Children's Literature by the Library of Congress for a 2 year term. See more here: <https://everychildareader.net/ambassador/events/>

Thanks to Kadria Simons, OCS parent, for her work in finding and applying for the grant.

**Calendar:** Administration is working with OCTA on the 2025-26 calendar and will bring a copy for Board review and possible approval to the meeting if available at that time.

## **Operations**

### **Hiring:**

OCS has begun interviewing teachers and support staff for the 2025-26 school year.

OCS is currently hiring a Librarian and a TK Aide for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

**Lottery:** The annual OCS lottery was held on zoom on 2/26/25. OCS received 607 lottery applications (102 more applications than received last year) and 69 post-lottery applications to date. Roughly 55 people joined the zoom to observe the process and see the results. All applicants were sent a copy of the waitlist for the grade level for which they applied. Offers will be sent out for available spaces in April after re-enrollment is complete for currently enrolled students.

**Facilities: Williams Inspection**

The Williams Facility Inspector sent a letter stating the OCS' facility is fully cleared of any previously noted issues.

**Charter Renewal**

Administration has been attending workshops led by CCSA on charter renewal in preparation for our renewal next year.

**SARC**

The OCS final SARC 2023-24 report has been submitted and is available on OCS' website [here](#).

**School Climate**

**Climate survey:** The climate survey has been sent to all community members, including parents/guardians, employees, and students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Results will be evaluated and shared with the community and the Board in coming meetings.

**Events**

**Open House and Walk Through the Grades**

Open House on Thursday evening and the Walk Through the Grades for all students this morning gave us all a chance to celebrate the work of our students and teachers as they progress through the grades! Thanks to all the parents who joined their children as they strolled through the classrooms admiring the students' work and the beautiful classroom environments created by our teachers. All students walked through all the rooms this morning with their teachers and then had a chance to discuss and share their excitement about what they saw as they returned to their own room. Younger students are inspired by looking ahead to the work in the older grades while older students look fondly back on the work they also did in the younger years. It truly brings tears of joy to me each year to hear their excitement and admiration for each other. Below are a few delightful images from the walk-throughs, but they by no means capture all the beauty that was on display.

**Black History Month Art Crawl and Assembly:** On February 11<sup>th</sup>, OCS held our BHM Art Crawl and Assembly. All classes saw the artwork generated at each grade level that was on beautiful display in the gym. The larger community was able to view it afterschool that day. Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> participated in our BHM assembly with Mr. Rivers and 10 other professional musicians in the afternoon. Students in younger grades could also attend afterschool with their parents. Several OCS middle school students recited poetry powerfully at the assembly. The OCS Peace Players with Mr. Rivers helped open and close the event with engaging rhythms.

**Grandparents' Day/Valentine's Day:** OCS hosted our annual Grandparents' Day on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Grandparents visited classrooms, played at recess with their grandchild/ren, and gathered for a short presentation about our school's program and needs as well as see a student performance by our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes and our 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes. It was a joyful day of connection!

**Beach Clean:** OCS will likely not hold our annual Beach Clean event this year due to lack of buses and potential risk due to fire debris washing up on our local shores. Administration is looking for parent support to make the event happen next year.

**Renewal Camp:** As part of OCS' Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), OCS held 4 days of camp during our February renewal week break. Roughly 35 students participated and raved about how terrific it was! Thanks to Ms. Nelly and her team for leading such a great camp.

### **Parent Education**

**Barbara Ollinger** hosted her second parent talk about parent triggers. We discussed how to recognize our triggers and work with them so they do not become burdens for our children to carry but rather parts of ourselves that we acknowledge, without judgement, and are therefore able to grow from on our journeys as parents. Barbara's book, Growing from the Roots, contains many of these concepts if you are interested in learning more.

**Wait Until 8<sup>th</sup>:** Thanks to OCS parent, Meagan Ramsey, the OCS community gets weekly support for making mindful choices regarding our students use of technology. Below is just one excerpt of her weekly sharing.

**Podcast:** **"What's Up with Today's Online Youth? A Conversation with Dino Ambrosi** (Founder of *Project Reboot*)" - *CyberWise Chats*, Feb 26, 2025.

Dino spoke at OCS last year, and in this webinar speaks brilliantly about the multifaceted dimensions kids face with technology right now. His dialogue with CyberCivics founders Diana Graber and Pamela Rutledge discusses the current



'state of the union' with kids and tech - it's recommended to listen through to the end, when they discuss where AI is heading.

- **Apple Link:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/cyberwise-chats/id1615459293?i=1000696394698>
- **Video link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtEHZF0SZXQ>
- **Web link:** <https://cyberwise.podbean.com/e/whats-up-with-todays-online-youth-featuring-dino-ambrosi-founder-of-project-reboot/>