



Director's Report

May 1, 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:

OCS Summer Institute: Summer Institute registration continues. So far, we have 13 OCS teachers signed up and 1 teacher from another school. I expect a few more sign-ups from other schools as we get closer to the end of the year and teacher placements and hiring is further along.

Building Bridges: The latest Building Bridges in-person session for our 13 participating teachers was held March 28th – 30th on site. Topics included speech work and storytelling. May 16 – 18th is the next in person session on campus with online sessions in between.

River Moves Mountains Mentoring: The attached report provides an overview of Bonnie River's recent on-site work with OCS teachers.

TK Program:

As our TK students get younger due to the state moving the start age younger (4 years old by Sept. 1st), OCS is examining our TK program to see how we can better meet the needs of our youngest students. Everything from the size of our campus, the way children participate in the lunch program, and the overall structure of the day must be examined from the lens of child development and appropriateness. The CA State TK standards are a helpful and grounding tool in this process as is a solid understanding of child development from a Steiner perspective. Administration is considering hosting a TK orientation program before the start of school 2025-26 to support both children and parents in joining our OCS community.



Operations

Hiring:

Administration has been interviewing, setting up observations, and conducting demo lessons with about 10 class teacher applicants. This process will continue for another few weeks.

Specialty teacher hiring needs are being evaluated. A similar process will be used for specialty teacher hiring as needed.

Staffing needs including intervention assistants and classroom assistants are also being evaluated. A similar process will be followed for these positions as needed with observations and demos in the appropriate setting.

School Climate

Climate survey: The full reports for the community climate surveys are attached. Further analysis will be presented as this round's results are compared to the previous round to further inform school improvement efforts.

Spirit Wear

A new line of OCS spirit wear is coming soon! Thanks to student designers with support from parent designers and organizers, our community will have some terrific new spirit wear to sport in the near future. Stay tuned for online sales!

Events

Momotaro: Congratulations to our 4th grade classes, class teachers, and Japanese teachers for the 19th production of the classic Japanese story of Momotaro, the Peach Boy. All students in 1st – 8th enjoyed the daytime performance while parents and community members experienced the evening performance.

Honoring Cesar Chavez day: Teachers shared resources with each other so students could have developmentally-appropriate lessons inspired by the life and work of Cesar Chavez.

8th Grade Project Presentations: Wednesday, April 9th, 5 – 7pm

OCS Gala and Silent Auction: May 3rd, 7 – 11pm – Celebrating 20 years!

Parent and Caregiver Book Club: This series of three gatherings focused on parents working with and reflecting on their work with Lou Harvey- Zahra's book, Creative Discipline: Connected Family.

Spring Faire: May 2 from 3:30 – 5:30pm



Class Camping Trips: Classes in grades 3rd – 8th are going on their overnight camping trips now and until the end of the year. These trips are a highlight of the year for most students as they come together off-site in nature.

Parent Education Fridays: OCS is blessed with parents who are involved in work and projects that directly align with OCS' values and curricular themes, such as parent Justin Winters who founded and is now the executive director of [One Earth](#). Justin shared about the philosophy and work of One Earth in our parent education session on Friday, April 25th as it relates to parenting children in this time of climate anxiety. Her presentation was powerful and helpful to parents and is leading to further collaboration between OCS and One Earth in the areas of curriculum development. OCS 3rd grade teacher, Haley Zanze, who teaches Justin's son is deeply committed to sustainable practices and has been working with Justin this year on curriculum. OCS and One Earth will be exploring ways to further partner and deepen our work to both support and empower children growing up with the challenges of climate change.