

## • Director's Report

June 2, 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 8 OCS teachers registered, 2 from Sycamore Creek, and 3 from River Oak. We anticipate a few more registrations coming in.

Building Bridges: May 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> is the next in person session on campus with online sessions in between.

CAASPP: All students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> who are testing have completed testing in ELA, Math and Science (grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> only) for the 2024-25 school year.

#### **TK Program:**

As OCS adjusts to the realities of running a TK program with younger and younger children, we continue to learn from our own experiences, from experts in the field of early childhood education both within and beyond Waldorf Education, from parent feedback, and from the children themselves. They are always our best teachers! From all these sources, we are learning that our previously held model and vision of TK and K being a two-year journey of mixed aged children being together with their teacher is no longer possible given the new state requirements. These requirements concern the ages of the children, the new TK state standards, the class size requirements, and the new mandatory academic dyslexia screening starting in kindergarten next year. All together, these realities are leading us to be open to a new imagining of our TK and K programs.

This new model includes separating the TK and K students into two distinct groups. The K program will continue to be grounded in the Waldorf approach to early childhood development, but it must support students in the transitional phase that is after TK and that leads into first grade. The new academic testing requirement must be implemented in our K program next year, and we will

continue to prepare our K students for first-grade readiness through a Waldorf lens. The new model also includes altering the program in TK so that it can, as closely as possible, align with the new TK standards and more closely resemble a preschool program that is grounded in and protective of the Waldorf approach to early childhood development. In order to achieve this, starting next year, we expect TK teachers to continue in the TK program and Kinder teachers to remain in the Kinder program, allowing each of them to really specialize in that specific age group. We are embracing the opportunity to reform our Kinder program as more distinct from our TK program while still holding true to a public Waldorf Kindergarten program.

## **Operations**

**Hiring:** At this time, hiring for class teachers has been completed. Hiring for specialty and elective classes continues, as it does for our intervention program and aftercare.

**OCS Summer Camp:** Summer camp registration has been open for a while but registrations are coming in slowly, as they have consistently done in past years. OCS is offering 5 weeks of camp this summer for all enrolled students for 2025-26 except out incoming TK students as the camp is not required to be offered to TK and they are simply too young for our program this summer based on our experience from last year's program.

**New Parent Orientations:** New parent orientations are scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025 and Tuesday, August 5, 2025. These orientations are hosted by OCS administration and will include presentations by OCS parent, Meagan Ramsey, about OCS' commitment to the "Wait Until (after) 8<sup>th</sup>" national effort to reduce screentime and social media use among children.

**New Family Summer Meet-Ups:** The PC Coordinators are hosting two summer meet-ups for new families to welcome them into the community. This year, the meet-ups are Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11-1pm and Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 11-1pm at Glen Alla Park.

**Spirit Wear:** OCS' new spirit wear has launched. Initial sales have been lower than expected likely due to an number of factors, so we are examining our 100% pre-order intention to see if ordering some stock to have on site will support sales.

## **Events**

**Class Camping Trips:** All classes in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade have completed their overnight camping trips for the year. These trips are a highlight of the year for students and teachers and help form long-lasting bonds amongst classes.



**Class Plays:** All classes in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade have shared their class plays with the community for the year. These collaborative, creative endeavors challenge students in new ways and encourage their growth in a wide variety of areas.

**Memorial Service for Elise “Vin” Postley:** The celebration of life for Elise “Vin” Postley will be held this Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1:11pm at OCS. Her family and family friends have been collaborating with OCS administration and teachers to create a beautiful event.

**Rose and Rock Ceremony:** Our annual Rose and Rock Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Rose Ceremony involves first grade students giving a rose to their 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddy as their buddy leaves OCS, just as 8<sup>th</sup> graders gave 1<sup>st</sup> graders a rose at the start of the year to welcome them into the grades. The Rock Ceremony involves 7<sup>th</sup> graders receiving a painted rock from an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student to symbolize the weight and responsibility of being the lead class on campus next year. All grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> share an offering to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates during the ceremony to send them off with love.

**Graduation:** Our graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Families, students, teachers and staff are looking forward to this event with mixed emotions of joy, pride, eagerness, trepidation, and sadness as they prepare to say goodbye to OCS.