

Director's Report

September 4, 2025

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

Educational Program

Professional Development:

OCS' Ongoing Commitment to Public Waldorf Education - Mentoring:

Mentoring assignments are in process as we assess needs and work through scheduling challenges. Grades 1st – 5th grade teachers will meet at least once/month with Bonnie River on ELA pacing and assessment that combines Waldorf philosophy with Common Core standards. Teachers new or newer to Waldorf will meet individually at least once per month. Weekly sessions with Ania Kubik for singing and flute/recorder will continue for classes with their teachers who are new or newer to these arts.

Math:

Teachers who attended the UCLA CGI Math training will be sharing practices regularly during faculty meetings throughout the year. Practical guidance on how to implement CGI strategies in daily math lessons will be shared. Teachers will be able to work in loops on effective ways to integrate mathematical thinking in their morning mental math time as well as during practice periods.

SEL:

Faculty and staff ongoing training in Safe Schools Cool Tools will continue during our October professional development training. We will reflect on initial implementation using real-world scenarios teachers and staff have encountered this year. Parent education about Cool Tools is scheduled for January so parents can use the Cool Tools language and concepts at home as well.

Student Performance:

CAASPP Score Analysis 2024-25:

Public CA Dashboard results have not yet been released. The Dashboard report shows schoolwide, grade level, and subgroup results. We expect it to be released in mid-November. Currently, OCS has access to individual scores, class scores and grade level results. Faculty and administration are analyzing



these results to identify areas of focus for specific classes and, when appropriate, specific grade levels.

Science-

This is the first year scores “count”. Only 5th and 8th graders test in Science.

8th grade general analysis:

Strength: no students in standard not met

Challenge: Too many students in Standard Nearly Met

5th grade general analysis:

Strength: very few in Standard Not Met

Challenge: Too many students in Standard Nearly Met and not more in Standard Exceeded

ELA- currently analyzing grade level and class level data overall as well as by subgroups including EL (English Language Learners) and Ethnicity

MATH - currently analyzing grade level and class level data overall as well as by subgroups including EL (English Language Learners) and Ethnicity

Fall NWEA Benchmark Testing:

Classes 1st – 8th have completed their Fall NWEA testing in ELA and Math. As a faculty, we are exploring these results and what they mean for instruction in our ELA and Math practice periods. These benchmark tests are administered three times per year as one way to track student progress in ELA and Math. Tests are given on Chromebooks and run over the course of several days. Results are generated both individually and class-wide so teachers can identify areas of strength and areas for growth individually and class-wide. Based on this analysis, teachers will receive support from mentors and our Intervention teachers on addressing areas for growth. Individual student reports are shared with parents at the Fall Parent/Teacher Conference time. NOTE: Teachers create calm atmospheres and establish routine protocols for taking these tests and using the devices to minimize any anxiety students may have about them, especially for our younger students.

Operations

Hiring: Hiring continues for Aftercare, the Meal Program/Kitchen, and coaches for sports teams.

Enrollment: Per OCS’ request to increase enrollment capacity to 571, the Charter Schools Division is partnering with the Master Planning and Demographics office of LAUSD to evaluate the capacity of the school site. The MPD visit is scheduled for Sept. 2nd.



Parent Engagement:

First Class Meetings:

During our third week of school, all classes held their first class meetings of the year from TK – 8th grade. For 1st – 8th grade classes, the evening began as a whole group in the gym as parents learned about our community-focused Fridays from parent education, to coffee and circle practice, to specialty program workshops. Next, our talented specialty teachers shared about their specific programs – how they build from the Waldorf philosophy of hands, heart and head – and about grade specific highlights of each program. Each specialty teacher introduced their program and grade levels so parents can connect an individual person with their child's twice a week specialty class. We also heard from PC Coordinator of Fundraising, Jennie Karrer, about OCS' AFG campaign and how families can participate. Parents were then dismissed to their children's classrooms where teachers greeted them for the class meeting. During these meetings, teachers shared a brief overview of that stage of child development, weekly schedules, block schedules, and artistic activities. Teachers included time for parent sharing and Room Reps worked their magic to fill all the wonderful and much-needed volunteer positions for this year.

Latin American Heritage Celebration:

Planning by our Latin American families and staff is well underway for our community celebration on 9/17 from 4:30 – 6:30pm. Ms. Maryangee is leading the event this year and has engaged our Latin American families to make this year's event more inclusive and celebratory than ever!

Community Fridays:

Community Fridays will rotate through various offerings for parents, including: coffee/tea with the Directors, parent education (More Than Sex Ed; Child Development from a Waldorf Perspective early childhood/younger grades/older grades; Parenting in this Media Age), parent experiences (Specialty program experiences in Handwork, Woodwork, Japanese and Singing), and parent circles.