

Director's Report

October 9, 2025

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

Educational Program

OCS' Ongoing Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:

WECAN Conference – November 2025

OCS is excited to host the SoCal WECAN ([Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America](#)) conference this year in mid-November. Administration is working with WECAN representative, Heike Adamsberger, to host the conference that will celebrate 100 years of Waldorf Early Childhood Education.

Alliance of Public Waldorf Education Conference – January 2026

Picking up the pieces from last year's cancelled conference due to the LA fires, the conference leadership team is eagerly planning this year's January conference to be held at OCS. The theme of storytelling, central to Waldorf Education, will weave the various conference elements together, from workshops to keynotes.

OCS Summer Institute – June 2026

OCS is working again with Tomasa Mendoza as the Coordinator of the OCS Summer Institute. The Institute will be promoted during the January Alliance Conference where we expect upwards of 100 Waldorf teachers from around the country.

Mentoring: Bonnie River, Waldorf and ELA mentor, completed her first three-week stint at OCS this year. She returns in November for her second visit to continue her in-person work with teachers in TK – 5th grades. Between visits, she continues to mentor teachers online through regular meetings with a focus on Waldorf main lesson for teachers not yet fully Waldorf trained and with a focus on ELA pacing, score and sequence for all 1st – 5th grade teachers. Bonnie is also supporting our 4th grade class substitute with lesson planning as we search for a long-term teacher for the class.

English Learners:



English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) – OCS' English Learner Advisory Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8th. The committee analyzes cultural diversity representation at OCS, parent needs of English Language Learners, attendance, student performance, and supports for ELLs.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL):

Class teachers are rolling out our new SEL approach called Cool Tools through hands-on lessons with their classes that are followed up with class councils that offer opportunities to discuss real-life applications of the tools and to role play. The rollout this year includes 10 tools with the following deadlines for introducing students to the specific tools. As class teachers introduce the tools, all other adults on campus from office staff to assistants to recess and aftercare supervisors are reinforcing the language and strategies to create a common language and to reinforce using the tools in daily interactions. A parent session to introduce the approach to parents to adopt at home is scheduled for January. Our next professional development session on Cool Tools is scheduled for all employees on Oct. 24th, our student-free day.

By 9/19: Bubble

By 10/3: Stop and Exit

By 10/17: Magnet

By 10/31: Traffic Signal

By 11/14: Put-Ups and Put Downs

By 11/28: Nice Dice

By 12/12: Microphone

By 1/9: Toothpaste

By 1/23: Pretzel

By 2/6: Bendy Straw

Operations

Hiring: In late September, one of our new 4th grade teachers resigned as did our Maintenance Coordinator. We have secured a substitute for the 4th grade class as we continue the hiring process to find a long-term teacher for the year.

Regarding the Maintenance Coordinator position, we have separated out the two roles that were combined in our relatively new Maintenance Coordinator role into daily maintenance/custodial and facility project management. The new part-time facility project manager has been hired and a temporary daily maintenance/custodial person has been secured. Hiring continues for Aftercare and the Meal Program/Kitchen.

Enrollment: Per OCS' request to increase enrollment capacity to 571, the LAUSD Master Planning and Demographics office evaluated the capacity of the



school site on Sept. 2nd. The inspection team has shared that the report is almost complete and will likely be sent soon. The outcome will inform OCS' charter renewal petition.

CalSAS Update: CalSAAS is the state monitoring system for teacher credentialing. OCS may have one exception for the 2024-25 school year due to a teacher's EL Certification status. However, all corrective actions have been taken and required documentation has been submitted to verify that the teacher and school took all appropriate actions. It is now a matter of waiting on the Commission for Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to process the submitted paperwork.

Emergency Procedures:

In light of the recent lockdown incident OCS experienced, our administration has been reviewing our emergency procedures with feedback from students, parents, faculty and staff. Our goal is to be as safe, transparent, and efficient as possible during emergency situations, and to always prioritize student safety and well-being.

We are considering updates in the following areas:

- the names and colors of our emergency codes, including a possible new code for student incidents that require securing in place but do not indicate an external threat or require the same level of precaution that a lockdown requires
- improvements to PA system clarity and volume in certain locations
- review of easy access "cheat sheet" for emergency procedures to refer to by all staff when emergencies occur
- review of emergency text functions and messages
- review of SERT (School Emergency Response Team) roles
- review of internal emergency communication system

Additional community input will be gathered at the Oct. 21st Governance Committee meeting at 5:30pm that is open to the public.

Parent Engagement:

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.

Parenting Support: Parent Amy Cottle and therapist Barbara Ollinger are offering a series of parenting workshops for the OCS community.