

Director's Report

February 5, 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:

Alliance of Public Waldorf Education Conference – January 16 -18th,2026

Over 250 educators in public Waldorf Education from around the country – from Hawaii to Alaska to Florida to New Hampshire - attended the Alliance Conference over the MLK weekend. OCS teachers and board members attended and the OCS administrative team worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the Alliance administrative team to make it all run smoothly and to provide a comfortable, nurturing, inspiring experience for all attendees. Reviews from OCS faculty, visiting faculty and administrators, and the Alliance Board has been extremely positive on the conference overall and on OCS' hosting. The possibility of OCS hosting for a second year next year is being explored.

OCS Summer Institute:

The Summer Institute offerings for 2026 were publicized at the conference with the goal of attracting larger cohorts at each grade level to deepen and broaden the experience for all participants and to support the financial sustainability of the program. Fliers were available with registration codes and have been posted on our website. Typically, schools do not sign up this early in the year as so much of staffing for next year is still in flux, however we hope to encourage earlier and larger registration for the coming summer.

Operations

Charter Renewal

- ✓ 11/13: Renewal petition submitted
- ✓ 12/8: Feedback process is final. The final round of feedback and responses was completed on the morning of Feb. 4th and included district required updates to enrollment preferences.
- ✓ 12/16: LAUSD Board meeting with public hearing on OCS petition. OCTA President Kira Caluza shared a letter with LAUSD Board Members in open forum. No other comments on OCS were made.
- ✓ 1/26: LAUSD Board posting for the 2/10 meeting was released recommending approval of OCS' renewal petition for a 5 year term.



- 2/10: LAUSD Board meeting and vote to take action on the OCS charter renewal petition. Parent, faculty, administration and student representatives will attend the meeting to speak on behalf of OCS if our item is removed from the consent agenda.

LAUSD Annual Oversight Visit:

Friday, February 6, 2026

Administration and teachers have been preparing for the annual LAUSD oversight visit this Friday. Preparation for administration involves preparing the comprehensive digital binders for all 4 areas of operation our charter school:

- Governance;
- Student Achievement and Educational Performance;
- Organizational Management, Programs and Operations; and
- Fiscal Operations.

Preparation for faculty involves lesson planning and room preparation. The same team from the Charter Schools Division that OCS has had for the last few years is returning this year – Kristi Maar and Andrea Ines. They know OCS well, appreciate the unique value OCS offers our students and to the district's portfolio of charters, and consistently work to support OCS in our dealings with the district.

Staffing:

Special Education: Option 1 staffing for APEIS role

On Tuesday, Jan. 20th, OCS was informed of the unexpected death of Renee Williams, Special Education Administrator (APEIS) assigned at OCS for the past five years. The impact of her loss on our community is tremendous. She will be honored during OCS' Black History Month event on Feb. 12th.

On Monday of this week, OCS was informed of the assignment of an Interim APEIS, Ms. Cheryl Feldman, who started Tuesday, February 3, 2026 and who will be covering OCS until further notice. Ms. Feldman will be getting to know the special education team assigned at OCS as well as OCS teachers, staff, parents, students and our public Waldorf approach as she takes up this role. She immediately jumped in to host the many IEP meetings scheduled this week and in the coming weeks.

Class Teachers:

Ms. Groom, 2nd grade class teacher, is on leave. Ms. Kuter, former OCS class teacher and ongoing OCS substitute, is stepping in to take her class.

Mrs. Bryant, 4th grade class teacher who left retirement to take the class in mid-October, has resigned. Mentor teacher Bonnie River has stepped in to take the class during her scheduled visit that was planned as mentoring time for our TK – 5th grade teachers. Administration is exploring options for this class for the



remained of this year, and is working to also ensure ongoing mentoring is in place for our teachers.

Facility:

Solar Panel Update:

- **LAUSD** – OCS' solar panel project was approved on the consent agenda at the Jan 27th LAUSD Board Meeting. LAUSD requires their own engineering review and that we must use their inspector to sign off for DSA. We are working to get an estimate for their engineering review and inspector costs asap.
- **DSA** – We are in the fourth and final stage (Backcheck) with DSA. The Phase 1 backcheck (DSA-only, no interaction from Tenco) is due to be completed by Jan 29th. We are hoping that we won't have to do a Phase 2 backcheck (DSA in coordination with Tenco), or if we do, that it will be minor and quick and we will then receive our DSA approval.
- **KTEP** – OCS' KTEP application was submitted on Jan.21st for \$849,700 to the CEC. The amount covers the solar project, including LAUSD fees, as well as a secondary, required project for Demand Recirculation Controllers at a minimal cost of \$3,200 to reduce annual gas usage of our water heaters.