

Director's Report

March 5, 2026

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

Educational Program

Charter Renewal: OCS' LAUSD charter renewal vote was moved, with OCS consent, to March 10, 2026 due to district situations. OCS will have speakers ready to share on behalf of the school, but we hope to remain on consent agenda as a high performing charter school in good standing in all areas.

LAUSD Annual Site Visit: OCS' annual site visit was conducted on February 6th, 2026. Our team of LAUSD oversight folks visited many classrooms and were awed and inspired by OCS' talented teachers and engaged, articulate students. The team is working on the oversight report and scores and will share as soon as it is available.

Professional Development:

Deepening OCS' Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: OCS is excited to host the 2027 Alliance for Public Waldorf Education after a wonderful experience hosting the 2026 conference.

Building Bridges: OCS' 12 participating teachers will be gathering again in person from Friday, March 28 – Sunday, March 30, 2025 for the next session focused on Speech and Storytelling with Debbie Spitulnik.

River Moves Mountains Mentoring: Bonnie River stepped in during the month of February to take the 4th grade class whose teacher resigned at the end of January. She will return again to this class in April and possibly in May. As a result, her mentoring work during these windows was greatly diminished as she was unable to do the daily demo lessons, observations and meetings with teachers that she normally does during her visits while she was the full-time teacher for the 4th grade. Her work with the class has helped them grow academically, behaviorally, and emotionally and has deepened their experience of Waldorf Education tremendously.



CAASPP Practice Test: All students in grades 3rd – 8th will participate in our annual practice CAASPP test this Thursday, April 9th. The purpose of the practice test is to test technical preparedness, test accommodations, and plans for small groups. Ongoing preparation for the content and scope of the test is happening in developmental, creative ways in the classrooms with class teachers.

Multitudes Reading Difficulties Screening: All students in K – 2nd grade have completed their Multitudes reading difficulties screening. Teachers assessed students individually while a substitute covered the class over one or more days as needed. Results are being shared with families and will go into students' permanent records. They will be used to track student progress in foundational reading skills to inform instruction as well as additional support for those who need it.

Mid-Year NWEA: All students in 1st – 8th grades have completed their mid-year NWEA testing in ELA and Math. These results are shared with parents and are used to inform instructional decisions by teachers to support all students.

Trimester 2 grades: Middle school students' families are receiving trimester 2 grades this week.

Intervention Conferences: Class teachers and intervention teachers hosted intervention conferences this week on our three short days to meet individually with parents of students who are not yet at grade level in one or more areas and/or who are having challenges in the areas of citizenship or SEL (socioemotional learning). The goal of the conferences is to share information from teachers to parents and parents to teachers, and to work together as a team to support our students. Teachers write intervention conference reports that are sent to parents and filed in student's permanent records.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Administration is coordinating with Cool Tools trainers Laurie Ramirez and Beth Rendeiro for additional training and support for class teachers, front office staff, intervention teachers and aftercare staff on Cool Tools strategies.

Operations

Hiring:

OCS has begun interviewing teachers and support staff for the 2026-27 school year.

Lottery: The annual OCS lottery was held on zoom on 2/25/26. OCS received 523 lottery applications (84 less applications than received last year)



and 68 post-lottery applications to date. Roughly 40 people joined the zoom to observe the process and see the results. All applicants were sent a copy of the waitlist for the grade level for which they applied. Enrollment offers will be sent out for available spaces as soon as possible, but no later than the first week of April. Returning student re-enrollment will be completed in March and may reveal additional new enrollment openings.

Facilities: Our Facility Coordinator, Tim Garlick, has been working diligently to address ongoing HVAC issues as well as minor flooding from winter rains. He is also updating our security alarm system, working to resolve issues with our new dishwasher, and pushing to get our solar panel project through the entire approval process.

Calendar: The draft 2026-27 instructional calendar is ready for Board review and approval.

School Climate

Climate survey: The climate survey is being conducted with all community members, including parents/guardians, employees, and students in 7th and 8th grades. Results will be evaluated and shared with the community and the Board in coming meetings.

Events

Open House and Walk Through the Grades

Open House last Thursday evening and the Walk Through the Grades on Friday morning for all students gave us all a chance to celebrate the work of our students and teachers as they progress through the grades! Thanks to all the parents who joined their children as they strolled through the classrooms admiring the students' work and the beautiful classroom environments created by our teachers. All students walked through all the rooms this morning with their teachers and then had a chance to discuss and share their excitement about what they saw as they returned to their own room. Younger students are inspired by looking ahead to the work in the older grades while older students look fondly back on the work they also did in the younger years.

Black History Month Art Crawl, Assembly, and Community Celebration: On February 12th, the OCS community gathered to celebrate Black History Month. Every class 1st – 8th contributed artwork for the art crawl; Peace Players performed for the assembly where upper grades students shared poetry and professional musicians and actors led by Mr. Rivers shared words and music from Black Americans. After the assembly, the celebration continued outside in the egg and amphitheatre areas with food, jump roping, live music and later a DJ,



and a tribute to OCS' former APEIS Ms. Renee Williams. It was wonderful to have quite a few grandparents join the festivities.

Grandparents' Day/Valentine's Day: OCS hosted our annual Grandparents' Day on Valentine's Day, Feb. 13th. Grandparents visited classrooms, played at recess with their grandchild/ren, and gathered for a short presentation about our school's program and needs as well as student performances from 1st – 8th grade classes. It was a joyful day of connection!

Renewal Camp: As part of OCS' Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), OCS held 4 days of camp during our February renewal week break. Roughly 35 students participated and raved about how terrific it was! Thanks to Ms. Nelly and her team for leading such a great camp.