



Director's Report

April 9, 2026

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

Educational Program

Testing:

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.

Actual Test: Testing will occur during the first 3 weeks of May. 3rd – 8th grades test in ELA and Math while only 5th and 8th also test in Science. Most students complete testing in the first two weeks with only students needing to do make-up testing using the third week.

Operations

Hiring:

OCS has begun interviewing teachers for the 2026-27 school year. We have received a larger number of applicants than in recent years. The process involves an initial interview, observations in classrooms and conversations with current faculty, demonstration lessons, a writing sample, and reference checks. Typically, announcements regarding teachers for the coming year are made over summer. When a teacher transition is planned, every effort is made to bring closure for the students, families and the teacher prior to the end of the year during the last week of school.

Investments:

Josh Stokes and Kristy met with our new brokerage firm, Bernstein, to set up our account to begin investing per our investment policy as quickly as possible. Conservative projections of revenue from these investments will be included in the draft 26-27 budget.

Facilities:

Solar Project: The OCS team is doing all we can to meet the deadline to receive KTEP funding. We are also in conversation with Tenco about the impact of fair



wage requirements on the cost of the project. We are working with ExEd on updating projections for multiple scenarios of the project based on funding/financing, costs, and timelines.

Wellness Committee:

The third of four Wellness Committee meetings was held on 3/27. The final meeting will be 5/29. The committee discussed our meal program vendor update that has resulted in more meals served both at breakfast (21% increase) and at lunch (25% increase); how OCS has less food to donate to now due to higher student consumption; how our afterschool gardening enrichment class is supporting our sustainability goals; we updated our Wellness Policy and Implementation Plan; and, we reviewed how OCS is supporting student and employee wellness, including mental and physical health.

English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC):

We have had two of our three ELAC meetings so far this year. The committee internal benchmark testing, ELPAC results, integrated and designated ELD services, participation in school events, attendance,

Community

Climate surveys:

The parent/guardian survey and employee survey closed on 4/7. The student survey closed on March 27th. Results and analysis will be shared as soon as possible with the Board.

Events

All a public Waldorf school, our events are an integral part of weaving the tapestry of our community together. In March, the OCS community enjoyed the fundraising Western Gala event for adults, an event that raises significant funds for our school and one that is hosted entirely by parent volunteers with support from OCS' Business Coordinator.

Our community also enjoyed OCS' 20th production of the 4th grade Momotaro Play featuring both 4th grade classes. The students worked incredibly hard on this coming of age story, a story between the forces of good and evil, that is presented almost entirely in Japanese, except for our helpful narrators who narrate in English. While Momotaro has been shared with our community for 20 years, each year it is different in meaningful ways as the experience is based on the children in the specific classes and is crafted for them by our lead Japanese teacher, Hiromi Sensei.

As we come to the final months of the school year, we will celebrate more class plays as teachers lead students in these collaborative endeavors and all classes



3rd – 8th will embark on their camping trips, if they haven't already done so this year. It is indeed a busy time of year as spring blooms both within and around us!