Director's Report

October 1, 2026

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

Educational Program

OCS' Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:

Alliance Conference for Public Waldorf Schools: Planning by the Alliance and here at OCS is underway for this year's national conference to be held the weekend of Jan. 15th – 17th, starting Friday evening. OCS will again host the conference which makes participation by our faculty, staff, and Board enormously accessible. We look forward to having a strong presence at this year's conference. While the theme and keynote speakers are still being finalized, the focus seems to be settling on the Waldorf threefold approach of head, heart, and hands and how this approach is realized in our classrooms.

Waldorf Teacher Training: A group of school leaders are meeting with Alliance leadership to explore Waldorf teacher training options in the coming years. Considerations include cost, location/online/hybrid, content, time, recognition by AWSNA and/or Alliance and/or WASC.

Professional Development Days:

Our Oct. 9th professional development day includes mandatory training by a school nurse in specific health protocols; ongoing training in our Cool Tools approach for social-emotional learning; visual arts work with Waldorf teacher Stephanie Becker and movement work with Waldorf teacher Tomasa Mendoza.

Our Nov. 2nd professional development day is dedicated to visiting other public and private Waldorf schools in Southern California to observe in classrooms and specialty classes. Administration is collaborating with the following schools for potential visits: El Rio, Maple Village, Sycamore Creek, Mariposa, Pasadena, Highland Hall, Orange County, and Westside.

Pedagogical Events:

Festival of Courage: OCS' Festival of Courage will begin with our opening ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 29th. All 1st – 8th grade students will gather in the gym for a dragon story, complete with songs, drums, a dragon, and a ring of fire! This ceremony marks the start of the Festival of Courage games that will continue for

roughly a week as older classes host younger classes in games of courage around the egg. Students wear colors of fire and work together to meet challenges that represent the internal work we can all engage in as summer turns to fall and we begin to summon our strength to face the darker months.

Japanese Student Visit: On Oct. 22nd, the same day as our Knight of the Bedtime Stories, we will welcome over 80 Japanese students for the day. They will spend the bulk of their day paired with middle school students. In addition, there will be a middle school gathering where the visiting students share about their school and life in Japan. OCS students prepare for this visit by practicing practical phrases, letter writing to their pen pals, and creating activities that promote cross-cultural exchange. OCS thanks our Japanese teachers for bringing this experience to our students and all of our middle school teachers for making it meaningful for both our students and our visitors.

Internal Benchmark Assessments:
Kinder Benchmarks: Kindergarten teachers have completed their start of year benchmark assessments. Results are shared with parents at the Fall Conferences. Students are assessed again at the end of the year and results are shared with End of Year reports.
NWEA MAP: https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/
All 1st – 8th grade students are assessed using the NWEA MAP growth assessments in ELA and Math. Results are used to guide instruction and track student progress as these assessments are given three times a year. Results are shared with families along with the fall Parent/Teacher Conference Form during the November conferences.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation (WASC): OCS' visit will be in April and our self-study report is due in early March. The self-study process involves all stakeholders. The goal for this round of WASC accreditation is to align our various documents – charter, LCAP, strategic plan, and WASC self-study – so they are focused on similar goals and priorities. The board's work on the strategic plan is key to this process.

High School Information Night: OCS is holding our annual High School Information Night on Sept. 28th via zoom to support current OCS parents in their high school search process. Documents and general guidance is shared by administration followed by practical tips and real-life stories from OCS alumni parents who have already gone through the process.

Operations

Staffing: We are continuing to hire in-house substitute teachers. We are in process on hiring two new aftercare supervisors and a new TK assistant.

Maintenance:
Ongoing issues with our HVAC system are being addressed. OCS was impacted heavily during the heat wave with air conditioning challenges. Our Maintenance Coordinator is working to address them with the two main vendors as some of these issues have been present since we moved into the site. Others involve ongoing maintenance that needs to be regularly scheduled and included in future budgets.

Irrigation continues to be a project that we are tackling. Certain areas on campus tend to flood while others are too dry. Our Maintenance Coordinator is working with the vendor to stabilize the system and create healthy water flows around campus as needed.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a heavy rain season and are doing what we can to prepare. Based on previous years, there are identified areas of leaks that have been previously addressed and that are being monitored now. Additional costs are expected as we continue to manage these issues.

Annual Oversight Visit: Administration has requested our oversight visit happen before the winter break; we are awaiting the district's response. Documentation related to OCS' annual visit is uploaded on an ongoing basis over the course of the year. Recent items include the **EL Master Plan Certification** indicating that OCS is implementing the LAUSD Master Plan; the annual **Compliance Checklist Administrator Certification**; and the **ESSA Grid** that includes documentation of clearances, credentialing and mandated training for OCS teachers, staff, board members and volunteers.

Community

Latin American Heritage Celebration
The community gathered for dancing, music, crafts and food in honor of Latin American Heritage on Sept. 16th. Highlights included traditional dance performances by grandmothers, mothers, and daughters from Argentina, Brazilian capoeira and Mexican folklorico.

Knight of the Bedtime Stories
On Oct. 22nd, OCS will host our annual Knight of the Bedtime Stories that features stories told or read by community members on the amphitheatre stage while students gather on blankets in their pjs and enjoy some delicious food as they hear the stories. In the last few years, we've added a quieter option up in the garden where Leadership students create a cozy den and share stories with smaller groups of students.

Ocean Charter School

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