Annual Report
2013-2014

Celebrating 25 years of community, growth and education
“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

- Henry David Thoreau
WALDORF SCHOOL OF ORANGE COUNTY

Founded in 1988, Waldorf School of Orange County (WSOC) is an independent, non-denominational school adjacent to the Talbert Nature Preserve in Costa Mesa, California. Offering enrollment to students from early childhood through high school, our age-appropriate curriculum fully integrates the disciplines of the humanities, sciences, mathematics, physical movement and the arts into a strong academic program. Within our school community and in our classrooms, our goal is to engage the mind, fire the imagination and strengthen the will as students develop initiative, creativity and the skills needed to enter responsibly into an ever-changing local and global community.

In 2013-2014, Waldorf School of Orange County enrolled 347 students in grades pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.

INSPIRED EDUCATION

Since its inception in 1919, Waldorf Education® has grown to become one of the largest private, non-profit, non-denominational, independent K-12 systems in the world with approximately 1,025 schools in 60 countries. Waldorf Education was developed in Europe by Dr. Rudolf Steiner, a visionary educator, philosopher and scientist. His goal in education was to nurture artistically, spiritually and intellectually the highest potential in each child. The curriculum, the style of teaching and the incorporation of the arts into every subject sets Waldorf Education apart.

A LOVE OF LEARNING

Waldorf School of Orange County is committed to providing academic excellence through awakening in our students a genuine enthusiasm, an interest in the world, a love of learning and a sense of purpose in life. The Waldorf® curriculum meets the student’s age-related capacities and develops the student’s initiative, creativity, critical-thinking and self-reliance. Our educational approach encourages balance, engaging the student cognitively, emotionally and actively across all disciplines.

AN EDUCATION FOR OUR TIME

The Waldorf curriculum is designed to educate the whole human being so that thinking, feeling and doing are integrated. To provide relevance and meaning to education, the program is created with the developmental process of the growing child in mind. The curriculum is based on an understanding of how children learn, and it focuses on supporting the skills and flexibility they will need in tomorrow’s world. Waldorf School of Orange County recognizes this approach to education as a pressing need of our time.
The Waldorf School of Orange County (WSOC) celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 11. This event provided an opportunity to reflect and recognize how significant “community” is at WSOC. Parson’s Field provided the space for everyone to celebrate in their own way - children, parents, faculty, alumni and friends. The event reflected the commitment to honor the individual as an integral part of the whole community.

This community is comprised of people who see the good and support the well-being of the whole community. As we each find our unique way to participate, the community is strengthened and reflects back to each the value of every smile, hug, log carried, gate decorated, item baked, lecture organized and introduced, festival organized, field trip chaperoned, budget balanced, scrip sold, inventory displayed, class lesson created, substitution carried, and on and on and on - for 25 years! We cannot even begin to imagine how many have taken part in the creation of this amazing place and have experienced this reflection of the whole in their efforts.

“\textit{The healthy social life is found When in the mirror of each human soul The whole community finds its reflection, And when in the community The virtue of each is living.}”

- This is the Motto of Social Ethic Rudolf Steiner, 1920

We started the 2013-14 year with the addition of beautiful new space for the Handwork and Woodwork curriculum. A layered deck links the classrooms adding outdoor work space and bridging the path to the high school campus. Foam-backed rollout flooring was added to Meadows Hall to support the health of students in the Eurythmy movement classes.

The year also started with a new position, Faculty Coordinator, to facilitate ongoing improvement in the flow between the working branches of the school - College of Teachers, Administration, Faculty and the Board of Trustees. The faculty welcomed Lisa Masterson back to our school to fill this new position as the Faculty Coordinator. It was one of life’s surprises that brought Lisa back to WSOC as she was one of the founding preschool teachers in 1988. The hard work of these branches found more efficiency and correlation through the help of the new position.

Enrollment continued to grow with an increase from 336 to 347. The High School started the year with an enrollment of 48 and our fourth graduating class was featured in a local newspaper touting the fact that all of the graduates were college bound and had received a total of $1,404,503 in merit-based scholarships and awards over four years. This continues to reflect one of the tenets of Waldorf education, that students receive a “whole” education so that they can choose any field for their life path. The exposure to and education in all of the academics and arts (as opposed to selected focus) opened many windows for these graduates as they prepared to go forth into the world.
In my soul wishes blossom
In my will actions grow
In my life fruits do ripen

I seek my star, my star finds me
I feel my fate, fate feels me
I hear my goals, my goals hear me
My soul and the world are one

Life will be harder for me
Life will be richer in me
Life will be clearer round me.”

- Rudolf Steiner

This verse not only rings true for students but also reflects the afore-mentioned community. One can imagine that the school community has its own soul which is nourished by the care and deeds of each individual and blossoms in the hearts of all. The truth of this verse comes to life on a daily basis. In looking back over the 2013-14 school year, we can see how it rang true moment by moment.

The Early Childhood program continued to grow in many ways. The Playgroup program nourished existing parents with young children and welcomed new friends, introducing them to the Waldorf curriculum with warmth and beautiful stories and play. The kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children enjoyed a new tree house donated and built by parents and friends. Parents created yet another beautiful “Autumn Festival” experience for not only the WSOC children but also for children from Wilson Elementary school in Costa Mesa.

The grades welcomed a “Gaga Pit” on the playground creating another opportunity for healthy cooperative yet also competitive play. The middle school orchestra earned unanimous superior ratings at the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association Festival in May. The High School program continued its growth with increased enrollment, continuation of the vigorous and full curriculum and community outreach and service projects.

The sense of community from WSOC stretches beyond our own. We hosted a workshop, Technology in Waldorf Education, for faculty from the wider Waldorf community in October. The collaboration at this event recognized the importance of technology as a tool and how much it contributes to our work as well as discussion of when and how it supports the learning process. Robin Theiss from our high school faculty spoke at the Lehrerseminar für Waldorfpaedagogik International Conference in Kassel, Germany, sharing the benefits of the Waldorf approach to teaching literature through cultural ethos. There were teachers from 48 different countries in attendance. Robin also represented the wider

\[\text{Faculty continued}\]

**Specialty Teachers**
- Elisabeth Beck
- Sandra Blanco
- Shelby Burnett
- Kurt Faerber
- Truu Gereats
- Phyllis Gilmer
- Joy Hill
- Brad Holm
- Masami Inoue
- Michael Knauss
- Rocío Levito
- Angie Meier
- Mai Huong Ngo
- Danielle Pitts
- Deb Waring
- Debora Wondercheck

**High School Faculty**
- Daisy Barnard
- Eden Boric
- Jenell Carlson
- Francesco De Benedetto
- Kurt Faerber
- Ingrid Feck
- Jeremy Feck
- Emmi Kohout
- Christine Newell
- Michael Knauss
- Sean Larabee
- Daniel Pitts
- Laura Rubiano-Gomez (visiting faculty 2013-2014)
- Naqib Shifa
- Robin Theiss

**After Care**
- Desiree Arevalo
- Jordan Briand
- Lisa Forrest
- Michaela Heller
- Teaushi Hutchins
- Tiesha Hutchins
- Kalea Seanoa
Waldorf community in a television interview on Waldorf education. WSOC faculty continued the pedagogical and personal growth that makes Waldorf education ever-renewing by attending the following conferences:

- Art of Teaching Grade 7
- Art of Teaching Grade 8
- Cultivating Humanness in a Technological World, Craig Holdrege
- Developing the Lower Senses as the Foundation for Higher Capacities
- The Three Dentitions - What the high school, grades and early childhood can learn from each other with Douglas Gerwin, Dr. Susan Johnson & Diane David

The sense of community also stretched beyond our walls through the continued recognition and appreciation of our work from the local community. WSOC was featured in the news multiple times, including continued community service in Talbert Park, and a feature on our 7th and 8th grade orchestra students - under the tutelage of Debra Wondercheck - who competed against high schools and middle schools and received a ‘Superior Rating,” the only middle school to receive that rating out of 11 other schools competing. In addition, opportunities to participate in local community and the wider Waldorf community included the following:

- WSO high school art work was on display at the Costa Mesa City Hall
- 11th grade completed Naturalist Training with the Catalina Island Conservancy which included community service work on the island
- 3rd grade recycled batteries in support of the City of Costa Mesa Battery Recycling Program
- 5th & 6th grade students participated in the local community soccer Pilot Cup
- Middle School Track and Field event (including Waldorf schools in Southern California) was held in the new stadium next door at Estancia High School
- 12th grade participated in an international Youth Conference at the Goetheanum in Switzerland
- 8th grade class did community service work for the Navajo Nation Tribe
- High School students sewed fleece blankets for the Joyful Foundation for cancer patients

Community growth and development was supported through ongoing Adult and Parent Education events which included:

- Movement & Learning, The Science and Art of How games, play and sports develop capacities and learning for Life with Valerie Baadh Garrett
- Five Secrets to Happy, Less-Stressed Parenting with Patti Connolly
- Scythe & Compass”, Moral Education of the Adolescent with Douglas Gerwin
- Adult Eurythmy Classes
- A Taste of Simplicity Parenting lecture and Simplicity Parenting 6-week workshop with Mary Van Geffen
- Adult Education classes in the Foundation Studies Program
- Brain Research and Waldorf Education with Patti Connolly

The College of Teachers continued the focus on our evaluation and mentoring of all teachers to bring the process in line with the revised cycle. Mentoring needs were provided both for new and for any teacher who requested ongoing support. The College also worked with the new format of co-chairs; the rotation of this responsibility still being shared among College members, yet the consistency being provided by the Faculty Coordinator as a constant returning co-chair. This first year was a successful experience.

As we ended the year, we said goodbye to two long-term members of our faculty who supported the growth
and blossoming in more ways than we can list. Ingrid Feck gave 22 years to our school as a class teacher, Board member, organizer of Michaelmas Festivals, builder of desks and picnic tables and founder and teacher in the High School. We wish her wonderful years in her new endeavors. Miriam Whitely gave 13 years to our school as an Administrator, Board member, class teacher, Accreditation coordinator and event coordinator. We wish her wonderful years in her new endeavors and new home in Oregon.

In addition, two of our long-time cherished staff members are retiring. Sandy Meadows is bidding a fond farewell to her years of service to WSOC. Sandy single-handedly grew our Scrip program from the ground up into the huge success that it is today. Her tireless hours in the ‘Scrip Store’ have brought in extra revenue for our school, and will continue to do so thanks to her amazing work. Sandy and Rob Meadows have been cornerstones of our school community for 20 years and our school would not be nearly as strong as it is today without their tremendous support. We look forward to hearing about their three children’s college adventures! Their youngest daughter, Chandler, graduated WSOC this year and is headed to Chapman in the fall.

Rachel Skelly has worn many different hats at WSOC since 1995: first as a parent, then as an assistant in the Pre-Kindergarten. Rachel ultimately found her niche in our school store, The Company of Angels, using her community outreach skills to create our ‘Twice Upon a Time’ shop and heading up our weekly craft group. Rachel’s youngest daughter Evanya graduated WSOC this year and is attending the University of Kent at Canterbury in Fall 2014.

As we prepared for the first day of school we were devastated to lose Uschi Friebauer in August, 2013. Her artistic gifts and years of dedication in the Playgroup program will always be remembered.

As we closed out the year, we were deeply saddened by the passing of Will Poovey in July, 2014. He left a legacy not only as a donor and member of the Advisory Board but most of all in his gift of always focusing on and striving for the good. You could see his perspective in his eyes, smile and hugs. The virtues of these members of our community will continue to live on forever.

We all (parents, students, faculty) started the year with wishes and plans and as these dreams ripened, we brought many accomplishments to blossom and also sowed the seeds for continued growth.

With gratitude,

Holly Richards

and

Lisa Masterson

WSOC College of Teachers
Co-Chairs 2013/2014
The school year 2013/2014 was another proud one for Waldorf School of Orange County. We continued to flourish thanks to the support of our whole community. The Board of Trustees continued its work to support the school’s maturing program.

Years ago, we made a commitment to a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan for our school. With this plan in place, we successfully achieved a number of goals each year, which are both individually significant and are supportive of our overall vision. As the 2013/2014 school year drew to a close, we recognized the effectiveness of the strategic planning process, reaffirmed our commitment, and made plans to revisit the long-term vision for the strategic plan during the summer break.

At the beginning of the school year, the Board of Trustees and the College of Teachers agreed that the school’s compensation structure should be re-evaluated. A diverse group was formed, and charged with the task of re-evaluating our compensation structure and making recommendations for improvement. The group included members from all the school’s constituents, including the College of Teachers, Board of Trustees, Administration, and Parent Body. The group was careful to consider the practices and experiences of other Waldorf Schools, in addition to the unique demands and long-term needs of our own school. From this, the group recommended a number of changes to the compensation structure, which the Board of Trustees and College of Teachers will utilize for many years as a valuable tool for attraction and retention of the finest Waldorf educators and administrators. Along with the students, the teachers and administrators who create the space for Waldorf education to flourish are the school’s most valuable assets. This is why the Board and College devoted so much effort to this project in 2013/2014.

In addition, the Board engaged a number of other significant projects during the year. We launched our “Board Buddy” program to welcome new families to our community, and ensure that they have a resource for gaining vital information. We continued to improve our budgeting process, utilizing empirical data and forecasting models. Also, we began work on a Campus Master Plan to ensure an integrated approach to the school’s physical campus improvements.

The Board of Trustees is very proud of its partner, the Parent Association. The Parent Association is comprised of volunteers who donate time and resources toward improving community involvement and communication. This body continues to be an excellent vehicle for community members to get involved.

The members of the Board of Trustees are committed to providing for the financial stability and physical well being of the school and to protect its legal interests. Every member of the Board of Trustees serves voluntarily, bringing his or her own valuable experiences and expertise to the school in the spirit of community. We are proud to serve the Waldorf School of Orange County.

Dave Burnett
Board of Trustees Chair
FOUNDATION STUDIES & GRADES PROGRAM

WSOC is proud to offer the Foundation Studies Program, a two-year program which enables participants to continue for a further two years in the WSOC Grades Program, or a similar program elsewhere. Anthroposophy is the core study of the Foundation Studies Program, with an emphasis on Waldorf Education, and is supported by intense artistic work. The main focus of study in the Grades Program is the Waldorf curriculum for the grades.

This year we had ten students enrolled in the Foundation Studies Program which will finish in June 2014. We are currently in our fifth year of offering Foundation Studies.

The Grades Program course includes 12 weekend sessions and mid-week events per year, plus an intensive week in June. In addition, students are expected to do at least 30 hours of observation in as many grades as possible, with practicums to follow in the final year. We have five students currently enrolled in the Grades Program (Class of 2014).

This year we are proud to be celebrating our second group of Grades Program graduates: Gina Garrison, Christina Sbarra (who will be the class teacher for the incoming 2014 first grade at Maple Village School in Long Beach), Tiesha Hutchins and Eden Boric. Eden will continue teaching Earth science at the High School. Yvette Fabian, graduating class of 2013, will take the new first grade class at WSOC.

Visiting instructors this year included Dave Alsop (BACWTT); Holly Richards and Daniel Stokes.

Further contributors to the program included our own Christiane Bohr, Kurt Faerber, Robin Theiss, Joy Hill, Brad Holm and Chris Bennett.

Thank you to all the participants and to all of the instructors and guest speakers for supporting this vital program.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

July 31, 2012          July 31, 2013          July 31, 2014

Assets

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 621,500</td>
<td>$ 1,034,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>70,234</td>
<td>60,569</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
<td>137,481</td>
<td>102,117</td>
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<td>Prepaids/other</td>
<td>38,903</td>
<td>25,765</td>
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<td>Property (Net)</td>
<td>2,168,855</td>
<td>2,483,541</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,036,973</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,706,037</strong></td>
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Liabilities and Equity

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<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>16,068</td>
<td>66,730</td>
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<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>394,885</td>
<td>451,509</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>313,721</td>
<td>197,573</td>
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<td>Long term liabilities</td>
<td>129,374</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
<td>2,182,925</td>
<td>2,990,224</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,036,973</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,706,037</strong></td>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

2011/2012          2012/2013          2013/2014

Income

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$ 2,786,975</td>
<td>$ 3,320,353</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising (Net)</td>
<td>233,188</td>
<td>231,740</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company of Angels (Net)</td>
<td>57,953</td>
<td>48,811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrip Income (Net)</td>
<td>64,041</td>
<td>51,188</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>82,363</td>
<td>174,128</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,224,520</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,826,221</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Salaries</td>
<td>2,034,862</td>
<td>2,070,191</td>
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<td>Administration Salaries</td>
<td>498,383</td>
<td>557,237</td>
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<td>Facilities</td>
<td>335,686</td>
<td>352,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>522,675</td>
<td>629,176</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,391,606</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,609,460</strong></td>
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Excess of Income

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over Expenses</td>
<td>$ (167,086)</td>
<td>$ 216,761</td>
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• Unaudited

2013/2014 Income

- 89% • Tuition and Fees
- 5% • Fundraising (Net)
- 3% • Other Income
- 2% • Scrip Income (Net)
- 1% • Company of Angels (Net)

2013/2014 Expenses

- 57% • Teacher Salaries
- 15% • Management and General
- 16% • Administration Salaries
- 12% • Facilities
FROM ADMINISTRATION

In 2013-2014 the campus underwent some wonderful improvements. The area between the lower school and high school was upgraded with new landscaping, a newly-built sandbox with shade sail, and a more straightforward pathway to the high school. In the kindergarten yard, a big wood shade structure was added to provide respite on hot days. All these beautiful outdoor changes are part of a larger plan to upgrade our outside areas so that they match the beauty of what happens in the classrooms. All of these improvements would not have happened without the hard work of the volunteers on the Grounds Committee: Johanna Baird and Christie Hall. In addition, we added a small bathroom in Miss Catherine’s Pre-Kindergarten. This results in more play time for the younger children, who no longer have to line up and be escorted over to the lower school bathroom.

Our much-loved Company of Angels also received a little boost with the installation of brand-new flooring as well as a cemented walkway, making it an even lovelier experience to spend time browsing and visiting.

We upgraded our Emergency Preparedness Container (located on the back road) with a new food and water supply. The container has enough food and water to provide for the whole school population for a three-day period. The water, stored in enormous barrels, needs to be periodically emptied and renewed. A special tablet is added to the water to stabilize it and keep it potable for a longer period of time. We replaced our emergency food bars with a more healthful alternative- containers of pre-packaged non-GMO, gluten-free, organic dried foods that come with spices so we can cook and provide warm nutritional meals. As we do every year, we continue to refine our emergency preparedness plan to provide the safest environment possible for all of the students.

In Administration, the new role of Faculty Coordinator was filled by Lisa Masterson. Her extensive years of experience in the classroom – as well as her time administering a teacher training program - made her a perfect fit. This position was designed to help alleviate the teachers of the many nominal roles and responsibilities they carry. It creates a point person between the pedagogical and the administrative realms, and provides an individual in the administrative office who has intimate knowledge of the Waldorf curriculum and philosophy and is available to answer parent questions.

We had a very busy and successful year in Admissions. We offered 16 total Admissions Events, including admissions fairs and events on campus. We hosted six Walks Through the Grades, with attendees totaling 183. We had 108 visitors at our High School Open House, and 172 Early Childhood Information Evening and Morning in the Kindergarten participants. Our parent and child Playgroup classes (six altogether, with a combined capacity of 54 students) all were filled and in many cases were over-enrolled.

Each school day we receive on average 10 or more inquiries via phone, email, drop-ins and our website inquiring about WSOC. The sheer volume of these inquiries has helped us achieve robust enrollment and healthy wait lists for virtually every class from Pre-Kindergarten to high school.

Overall the school continues to grow and improve and this is only possible through the dedication of the administrative staff, the commitment of the faculty and the great spirit of our engaged community of parents and students.

Gina Illes
Administrator

Administrative Staff
2013/2014

Shauna Forsum,
Finance Coordinator

Carrie Frisby,
High School
Administrative Assistant

Gina Garrison,
Registrar/Finance
Assistant

Alyssa Hamilton,
Admissions/Development
Assistant

Chris Hammer,
Facilities Manager

Gina Illes,
Administrator

Emmi Kohout,
College Counselor

Lisa Masterson,
Faculty Coordinator

Nona McConville,
Store Manager

Sandy Meadows,
Scrip Coordinator

Denise Ogawa,
Development Director

Erica Ruvalcaba,
Administrative Assistant

Kim Sava,
Business Manager

Rachel Skelly,
Store Clerk

Linda Timmons,
Admissions Director
The mission of the Parent Association is to support the enrichment of the Waldorf experience for families through education, community-building, fundraising and outreach. This past year the Parent Association Leadership Council filled leadership positions in each of these strategic areas. They worked together throughout the year to do the following: inspire volunteerism in the parent body; coordinate the flow of information between parents and the school through Room Reps; recruit chairs of parent-led service action groups and committees; and support parent-led efforts of WSOC’s Strategic Plan. Key accomplishments for the 2013-14 school year included a community-wide survey to identify potential parent education topics, and the further refinement of parent volunteer opportunities presented in the online registration process.

During the year the Parent Association also oversaw a wide array of volunteer responsibilities in which parents and community members supported our school. In September, more than a dozen parents worked our Festival of Children booth in South Coast Plaza as an outreach initiative for prospective families. Our Welcome Committee also hosted a New Families Orientation in conjunction with the Admissions Director, and provided hospitality for various Admissions events.

Throughout the year several volunteers sold Scrip while others worked in our beautiful school store, Company of Angels, where yummy goodies baked by many families were sold. The Craft Group and crafters in our community made little treasures for the Elves Workshop at Winterfest and beautiful items that were later auctioned off at our annual Gala.

We had an amazing Gala crew which helped to successfully raise funds for our school program. Parent volunteers on our festival committees transformed our campus into a winter wonderland for Winterfest and a spring meadow at May Faire. All the while, a tireless crew of photographers and editors captured memories throughout the year and published our treasured yearbook.

Parents also hosted our beautiful Teacher/Staff Appreciation event and made delicious meals for College of Teachers’ night meetings and special events. And finally, our Room Representatives for each class continued to meet monthly and serve as support for the class teacher and liaisons to the Parent Association.

We offer our deepest appreciation to everyone who has supported or has been an active part of the Parent Association. You have inspired others and served our school in so many ways.

The 2013-14 Leadership Council:
Jamie Stahl, Representative to the Board of Trustees
Cynthia Baker, Parent Education Chair
Rachel Hulan, Volunteer Leadership Co-Chair
Kristen Krofina Volunteer Leadership Co-Chair
Sara Rodelo, Fundraising Chair
Brooke Tomblin, Outreach Chair
HAPPY 25th BIRTHDAY WSOC!

On Friday, October 11, 2013, WSOC friends, family, faculty, staff and alumni joined together to celebrate 25 incredible years of our school’s growth and evolution. Company of Angels staff member Rachel Skelly’s husband Craig and his band, The Breakaways, rocked the stage while children chased an enormous inflatable ball across the athletic field. Guests enjoyed food truck fare and shared blankets on the grass. WSOC alumni Jeremy Feck, a member of WSOC’s first graduating class, welcomed the crowd. Early Childhood teacher and College of Teachers co-chair Holly Richards shared moments about the early days at WSOC. Phyllis Gilmer, Nancy Grimes and Lisa Masterson, all founding members and midwives in the birth of WSOC, in a single Sunday School room at the Church of St. John the Divine in Costa Mesa, reminisced. Dave Burnett, Board of Trustees Chair, shared his vision for building a bright future to set WSOC’s foundation for another 25 years. One student from each class at WSOC, grades 1-12, joined him on stage to help blow out the 25 candles on a celebratory cake. Here’s to many more years together!
1986 Phyllis Gilmer arrives in the U.S. after doing part-time teacher training in South Africa. She discovers there is no Waldorf School in Orange County. The Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento connects her with two other parents, Linda Garrett and Christina Fredrickson. They discuss starting a new school, creating flyers and offering Waldorf information evenings to get the word out.

1987 The three women hold playgroups in parks throughout Orange County. Phyllis brings a Seasonal Table, Linda and Chris speak to the parents and Phyllis does puppet shows, circle and story time for the children. Lisa Masterson, having done Teacher Training at Highland Hall, is invited to join on as a member of the “traveling Waldorf school.” That Fall, growing demand for the program has necessitated the need for a proper classroom! Linda finds a room for rent at St. John the Divine Church in Costa Mesa.

1988 In January, “The Waldorf Community School” opens its doors to the first six Kindergarten students. Linda manages all the office work while Phyllis teaches, using the regular Waldorf rhythm of play, singing, story, activity, snack and lunch. The space they are in doubles as a Sunday school for the church on weekends, so all the Waldorf materials must be packed up each Friday and brought out again on Monday. By June 1988, there are 12 kindergarten students. A Board is formed with parents and teachers. A pair of experienced teachers is brought in from Canada to augment the program, but ultimately it is not a good fit and Phyllis quickly returns to the classroom.

1989 Waldorf teacher Mechtild Howard creates a first grade in a borrowed room in Annaliese School in Laguna Beach. Phyllis continues a new kindergarten class at St. John the Divine. Nancy Grimes and Lisa Masterson form a mommy and me co-op at that same location. Charlotte Dukich mentors and advises all aspects of the growing school, from Board to classroom.

1991 It is time to join the growing classes together in one location. A site is chosen in Garden Grove.

1992 The school moves again to a site in Fountain Valley. Paola Schouten takes the new first grade and the school adds a Eurhythmy teacher, Rosewitha Pacher. Nancy Grimes’ daughter Elea is in this class, and Nancy becomes Phyllis’s assistant in the kindergarten, which is now filled to capacity. Our school store, Company of Angels, is born with the help of Nancy Mitchell, Christine Fluor, Carol Watts and Melody Smythe. Waldorf Community School becomes Waldorf School of Orange County (WSOC).
WSOC enjoys its own campus, subleasing Newport-Mesa’s Eastbluff Elementary School from the Coast Community College District. Another Kindergarten is added and quickly filled, and many parent volunteers with little ones in tow create the need for a 3 day Pre-K/nursery program. The school grows quickly. Each year a new first grade teacher is added. Some teachers don’t work out and are replaced, while others stay the course. Norm Sievers is one who stays, and continues on to train other Waldorf teachers. Norm’s wife Yvonne starts a playgroup on campus with Nola Casserly, which is very well-attended. Michael and Claire Knauss join the faculty and stay on to graduate their classes.

WSOC now features two full kindergartens, a three-day nursery program, a playgroup, several grades, a eurhythm teacher, Japanese and Spanish language teachers, a Games teacher and an office staff. Sometimes the faculty and staff make enough money to be paid, and sometimes not. The hours are long and times are lean. Some donate their salaries so others can be compensated. They soldier on and the school grows stronger still. But, the Newport-Mesa school district is taking back the campus to re-open a public elementary school, and a more permanent site is still needed.

In March, WSOC obtains an initial five-year lease for Canyon Elementary School in the Costa Mesa School District and officially becomes a Playgroup through Grade 8 program. It’s a start!

The High School is launched. We begin with one class and a new one is added each subsequent year.

In September, we sign on for another 15 year lease for Canyon Elementary School.

We finish construction of our high school on site - built with shipping containers - and win several local awards for green building. In June, we graduate our first high school class. On June 30, we achieve dual six-year accreditation with WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and with AWSNA.

In September, we celebrate our 25th birthday!

In September, we sign a lease for 25 more years, securing the school for several generations to come.
OUR GIVING PROGRAM

Our exemplary programs and staff are a primary draw for many families who choose Waldorf School of Orange County. A less obvious—but equally valuable—asset of Waldorf education is being part of a community that is unwavering in the support it shows its members. Our young people are surrounded by individuals who love, care for and accept them. Waldorf education is a gift we give our children.

Annual Giving

We take great pride in announcing another very successful Annual Giving campaign. In 2013-2014, we raised $84,574, with 89% total school participation. The Annual Giving campaign is the cornerstone of our giving program and allows us to each year cover the gap between tuition revenue and operating costs. We gave away a reserved parking space for the year in an Annual Giving Participation raffle. The winners were Lorri and Mike Whitney.

The “Let’s Have a Kiki” Gala

Every year WSOC hosts a benefit auction to raise funds to support the operating costs of the school. This year the event was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Santa Ana. The theme was “Let’s Have a Kiki, Broadway-Style” and guests arrived in their kickiest Kiki attire. The event featured a silent and live auction and again utilized an online bidding system. The silent auction was followed by a dinner in the ballroom, lavishly decorated by Gary Tryan and Norm Paredes of Isis Design, Inc. Guests enjoyed meals prepared in-house and enjoyed a surprise treat of Sidecar Doughnuts in addition to the hotel dessert offerings. There were 220 attendees, 27 volunteers, 424 active bidders, and the 242 donors who made this event a show-stopping success.

Data of proceeds earned on-line (pre-shopping and raffle ticket purchasing) and on event night:

--Raffle items $6,400 ~our largest raffle ever~
--Silent auction: $37,000
--Live auction: $41,000
--Donation to begin the next phase of the campus master plan (central yard and playground renovation) $39,700

We are so grateful to our generous sponsors whose support makes a significant difference in our success:

Isis Design  ACRA Aerospace  Compax  Merchsourse
We also are grateful to all of those who participated in our paddle raise for new playground equipment:

Amy and Kingsley Aarons
Catherine Averett and David Unger
Adam and Johana Baird
Daisy and Morgan Barnard
Cathy and Steve Baum
Arieta Bizaro and David Diaz
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Nina and Vincent Torres
Brooke Trudeau
George and Abril Turner
Lorri Valenzuela-Mier
Darlene and Jerry Whitney
Lorri and Mike Whitney
Scrip

Scrip is a fundraising program that allows families to raise money for our school through everyday purchases, in the form of gift cards and gift certificates, sold to our families and supporters. Each family is required to generate $275 annually in scrip profit as part of their tuition commitment. Families and friends purchase scrip for everyday expenses like food, gas, clothing and entertainment. They then take the scrip to those businesses in exchange for goods and services. WSOC buys scrip from merchants at a discount and sells it as face value. WSOC keeps the difference between the discounted price and face value of the scrip, generating revenue. Scrip purchases range from 1% to over 20% profit per item. For example, a $100 gift card for Mother’s Market with 10% profit means $10 in credit toward your scrip dues. All profits generated over the $275 obligation are divided between the operating budget and the participating families’ classroom funds.

This year we introduced Shop with Scrip and PrestoPay™. PrestoPay lets you pay for your ShopWithScrip® orders online. PrestoPay securely links a bank account to your ShopWithScrip account so you can choose electronic debit when you check out online. You can order ScripNow eCards delivered directly to your ShopWithScrip account. And when you pay with PrestoPay, your ScripNow is ready to use in minutes. Just print your eCard and you’re ready to shop in stores or online.

In addition, WSOC is an Amazon.com affiliate. Described simply, at least 7% of your Amazon purchases come back to our school when you enter Amazon.com through the WSOC link. As our shopping community grows, so does our percentage earned. This year the program earned $7,000 for our school.

We want to offer a big thank you to the Maletych Family for including Ken Grody Ford in our Scrip program. If you buy a car from the Ken Grody dealership in Buena Park or Carlsbad, you get $250 profit automatically donated to your family Scrip account.

Lastly, we wish to extend a very special thank you to Sandy Meadows, who is retiring from her position as Scrip Coordinator this year. Sandy took on the WSOC Scrip program starting in 1998 and singlehandedly grew it into the successful program that it is today. Her tireless efforts have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for WSOC over the years. This revenue has enabled us to supplement our operating budget and has helped teachers purchase much-needed supplies for their classrooms. Thank you Sandy, we are filled with gratitude for your loving dedication and you will be sorely missed here at WSOC. We wish you a wonderful retirement and are excited to hear about the adventures you are having with your now college-age kids!

Grants

Thank you to the Brenden Mann Foundation for awarding WSOC a grant of $8,100. Of that amount, $4,500 was allocated for an after-school Japanese club for grades 9-12, and $3,600 was allocated to purchase six stereo microscopes for the Brenden Mann Science Lab. The Brenden Mann Foundation also generously supported service-based class trips with $25,000 in funding.

The Blits Foundation generously donated $10,000 to benefit the WSOC High School Student Council to create opportunities for leadership and service.

In addition, we received a Pacific Life Foundation grant for $5,000. Contributions in this category are predominantly for K-12 education and after-school programs that help youth excel academically and in life. The grant will benefit WSOC’s general operating fund.
**Company of Angels**

The Company of Angels is a focal point in our community and serves as both a resource and a gathering place. The store is filled with an array of hand-picked books, natural toys, challenging games and puzzles, as well as beautiful handmade items. There are also natural yarns, art supplies, unique jewelry and beauty products. A Slice of Heaven offers tea, coffee, treats and snacks.

A crafting group meets every week in the store’s garden and has contributed to a variety of school projects, including handmade elves and ornaments for the Elves workshop at Winterfest and auction and raffle items for WSOC’s annual gala. Raffle items this year generated a record-breaking $6,400 for our school.

**Move-A-Thon**

For the sixth year running, the children of WSOC have done their part to support the school by collecting pledges in support of their efforts at our Move-a-Thon.

In addition to encouraging students to get physical, the Move-a-Thon is an opportunity to foster philanthropy in our children and empower them to contribute to the support of their own school.

It is an excellent opportunity for them to reach out to relatives and friends outside the community and offer them a chance to support our programs.

The total school participation was 82%. The classes with the top dollars earned were:

1st place: 4th Grade with $3,898 ($300 prize for their class)
2nd place: 3rd Grade with $3,497.60 ($200 prize for their class)
3rd place: 2nd Grade with $2,554 ($100 prize for their class)

In total the students earned over $15,000 for the school. Thank you everyone for your support and participation.
This year WSOC graduated its fourth class. All thirteen students are headed to a four-year university or college. This diverse and tight-knit class received 44 college acceptances and received an impressive collective total of over $1.4 million in merit-based scholarship awards (not including needs-based scholarships). Nine of these students have been at WSOC since Pre-K.

The ceremony featured the high school faculty speaking about each graduate, sharing fond memories experienced over the years. Many hugs, tears, and laughs were shared in an intimate setting of 400 guests in a tent on the South Lawn at Parson’s field adjacent to the WSOC campus.

Speeches were delivered by three graduates: Blaze Cubanski, who also earned the school’s Heritage Award spoke about the character of the class. He stated, “I found only three differences between all of us. We are all passionate about very different things. We all have different beliefs. Our interests could not be more dissimilar. We are all unique on the surface. But the fact that we are so unique makes us the same. Each of us is an individual. Just like everyone else.”

Mimi Bohr displayed great appreciation by thanking every WSOC teacher for being part of her educational journey and thanked the entire community of parents and students for years of support, recognizing every community member contributed to her wonderful experience.

Lastly, Edgar Alexander Murcia challenged his classmates and everyone in attendance to remain awake and engaged in their future educations and their lives, as no one is ever “complete” or done learning.

“A goal is a dream with a deadline.”
-Napoleon Hill
The graduates, their declared college choice and major follows:

- Mimi Bohr: UC Davis, Applied Mathematics
- Blaze Cubanski: UC Davis, Undeclared Science
- Jon-Cruz Castro: University of Alaska at Anchorage, Education
- Sterling Daily: Seattle Pacific University, Nursing
- Julien Fournell: Chapman University, Computer Science
- Armen Ghazarian: California State University, Fullerton, Business Administration
- Vienna Hill: Evergreen State College, Film
- Camille Johnston: University of California, Los Angeles, Neuroscience
- Chandler Meadows: Chapman University, Health Sciences
- Edgar Alexander Murcia: Chapman University, History
- Evanya Skelly: University of Kent at Canterbury, Criminology and Sociology
- Willow Smith: Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, Graphic Design
- Jack Strippel: Hampshire College, Applied Design

PARENT EDUCATION

Parent Education at WSOC is now a collaborative effort between the College of Teachers and the Parent Association to organize a year-long series of educational opportunities for parents and the community at large to expand their knowledge of Waldorf education. Highlights included Valerie Baadh Garrett, who spoke on “Movement and Learning: The science and art of how play, games, and sports develop capacities and learning for life,” and Mary Van Geffen, who conducted a workshop, “A Taste of Simplicity Parenting” which explored a parenting approach that decreases cumulative stress in the lives of children.

We also hosted renowned Waldorf teacher and educator, Douglas Gerwin, who delivered a lecture on “Scythe & Compass,” Moral Education of the Adolescent” in which he discussed how a child’s powers of imagination--if fully exercised in the lower school--gives rise in the high school teenager to those crucial abilities of weighing, assessing, and arriving at truth.

Finally, Patti Connolly shared two lectures with our community. “Brain Research and Waldorf Education,” detailed the latest neurological research and how it relates to Waldorf’s philosophies of education, and “Five Secrets to Happy, Less-Stressed Parenting”. These secrets were shared with Patti by “wise elders” of the Waldorf movement, Patti says, “just as she was convinced she was most definitely ruining her children.”

In addition to evening parent lectures, our own Kurt Faerber, Eurythmy faculty, taught a 12-week intermediate Eurythmy session for adults. Robin Theiss opened enrollment in her Foundation Studies courses, History of Literature and Parizval and the Search for the Holy Grail, to the parent body. Holly Richards taught a weekend Early Childhood Workshop and Robin and Chris taught a weekend High School Workshop, which also was a part of Foundation Studies.

In addition, Christine Newell-Smith, WSOC handwork faculty, led a weekly craft group for parents, with both new and seasoned crafters joining together to create projects ranging from Winter Festival items to Spring felted treasures.
Thank you to all who donated to our 2013-2014 Annual Giving campaign:

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Miriam Whiteley
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The Wondercheck Family
Wan-Ting Wu
and Chao Cheng Wang
Reuben and Laura Zeni
Harleigh Zusmer

We would like to extend a huge thank you to those donors who wished to remain anonymous.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As part of our commitment to provide students with an opportunity to engage in their community and the broader world, WSOC initiated several community outreach activities this past year.

On October 30th, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten celebrated their Autumn Festival. Thanks to the parent volunteers from each of the four classes, the big play yard was transformed into a harvest haven. It was decorated with pumpkins, gourds, flowers, dry leaves, and cornstalks (some of which our very own kindergarten classes grew and harvested). There was an obstacle course, a bean bag toss (into carved out pumpkins), treasures to be found and had at the Gnomes’ Cave, a beeswax candle-rolling craft, and bobbing for hanging apples, which were then conveniently taken to the apple peeling station.

We were happy to share this experience with a kindergarten class from our neighbor, Wilson Elementary.

We are deeply thankful to our parent volunteers, with a special thanks to committee leaders Rebecca Schwarz, Josephine Lo, Kim Eijpen and Kristen Krofina.

WSOC recycled batteries in support of the City of Costa Mesa Battery Recycling Program, generating $300 for the school.

The third grade donated all of their used colored pencils to the Lakota Waldorf School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Fourth grade students and their families donated items to the Lakota Waldorf School in South Dakota (in lieu of holiday gifts for their class teacher, Miss Andrea), sending a large box of school supplies (pencils, crayons, flutes, paper, etc.), personal care items and clothing for families in need, dishes and utensils for the kindergartens, as well as folding chairs and tables for their meeting space.

WSOC students in 6th to 8th grade are asked to complete 15 hours of community service time each year. They worked at the Talbert Nature Preserve and the Native Plant Garden, through OC Parks.

Students visited three times during the year during main lesson. The rangers are always impressed with their work and enjoy having our students there. The program began in 2010 and is still going strong.
The eighth grade participated in a one week outdoor education and community service field trip to Colorado. The trip is an educational opportunity coordinated and guided by outdoor educators from Deer Hill Expeditions. The students traveled to four different states: Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. They began with camping, hiking and kayaking on the San Juan River in Utah, and then performed community service work for a family on the Navajo reservation in Fruitland, New Mexico. They cleared trails, pulled weeds, and chopped wood in a field they were clearing of excess trees on the family's property where they were camped. They cleaned up brush and weeds around the family's church on the reservation. They painted a water tank and two fences on another property owned by the family. They shared a potluck meal of Navajo tacos and made traditional Navajo fry bread together. They played with their host family’s grandchildren and shared in-depth conversations. Students found that the most impactful gathering was on the Navajo family’s ranch, the site of their childhood home before they were relocated. There the students entered the family hogan, still used for traditional ceremonies, where they experienced a traditional Navajo story and blessing. “There were so many highlights during this trip, but one that stands out for me was the service portion. We went to Navajo Nation and helped our host family, Orlando and Arlene Pioche, weed and paint fences on their property. Not only was the work fun, but also it really helped the Pioche family because of the amount of work that had to be done. The best part was to see the smiles on the whole family’s faces when we had finished all the work. It was an amazing feeling, knowing that we were the cause of those smiles.” - Maya

“Our hosts were extremely nice and taught us so much. Working beside them gave me a glimpse into a whole other world, and for that I am extremely grateful.” - Dominic
COMMUNITY OUTREACH Continued

High school students in grades 9-12 donate 20 hours (10 hours per year individually and 10 hours collectively as a community) of their time each year to a charitable organization. They have volunteered at organizations such as Share Our Selves, Boys and Girls Club Costa Mesa, Aegis Retirement Home and the American Red Cross.

This year they sewed fleece blankets to give to the Joyful Foundation. This foundation has donated over 50,000 blankets to cancer centers and hospitals. Our own Sandy Meadows is an important part of the foundation and the high school spent the afternoon making blankets in appreciation of Sandy’s hard work at WSOC over the years. Sandy is a longtime WSOC parent, tireless advocate, and WSOC Scrip Coordinator. Sandy retired from her position this year after 18 years of service. The students made 40 cozy blankets, handmade cards, and over 35 dog toys out of fabric scraps, which will be donated to the Orange Animal Shelter. This was a zero-waste project from start to finish. The students surprised Sandy with their creative donations in a special on-campus tribute.

12,000 Relief Meals Packaged

In December the entire high school student body and faculty gathered in Meadows Hall to assemble food packages for the world’s hungry. Through the organization Stop Hunger Now, they collectively packaged 12,000 meals for the Philippine Typhoon Relief Effort. The meals were comprised of rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and a vitamin pack. It was an amazing and educational experience. Grandparents of one of our high school students sponsored the event, paying for all the materials provided to the relief effort.

11th grade completed a week-long field trip to Catalina to work with the Catalina Island Conservancy, where they performed community service work on the island. They worked as volunteers maintaining and restoring the native
plant life and spending the evening observing the stars with their Astronomy teacher, Mrs. Eden Boric. During the week, they removed invasive plant species, removed old fencing, and helped with beach cleanup. They also went through Naturalist Training with the conservancy and learned about the history and wildlife of the island.

12th Grade’s Class Community Project involved finding a service opportunity they could do together along the same theme as their projects: What is education? They found this opportunity locally at Pomona Elementary School. Each Monday afternoon, the 12th grade would go to teach reading, math, and organic gardening to the students there. They were able to both share their Waldorf skills and make human connections with children in their neighborhood.

WSOC (and NHHS) Alumnus Alanna P. Murphy teamed up with her fellow Peace Corps Volunteers to bring books to Guinea. Partnered with the organization Books for Africa, they worked toward raising $20,000 to bring 20,000 books to Guinea. These books will then be used to start (or augment) 25 libraries around the country.

“As a former student at WSOC, I was given the privilege of not only a wonderful education, but also the joy of working alongside students, teachers, and families that were kind enough to help others in need. I am calling upon that kindness now, to help some other kind-hearted students in my life,” said Murphy. “Each dollar donated buys one book for a Guinean library. You are donating to the first time a parent reads to his or her children, to that moment when a child begs for ‘just one more page.’ You are donating to the imagination, and letting kids experience worlds other than their own. You are donating to the child with a big smile who announces that he’s read his first book. You are donating to hope, to the development of Guinea, and to self-confidence. You are donating to a child finding strength in new heroes.”
Waldorf School of Orange County is committed to providing academic excellence through awakening in our students genuine enthusiasm, an interest in the world, a love of learning and a sense of purpose in life. The Waldorf curriculum meets the student’s age-related capacities and develops the student’s initiative, creativity, critical-thinking and self reliance. Our educational approach encourages balance, engaging the student cognitively, emotionally and actively across all disciplines. We recognize and welcome the unique gifts brought by each student.

Waldorf School
OF ORANGE COUNTY

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