



August 21, 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the Waldorf School of Orange County's 2018-19 school year! This year marks WSOC's 30th anniversary since opening our doors. We are excited to reach this milestone and look forward to celebrating our wonderful community with you throughout the school year.

The summer months were filled with a flurry of activity on campus including summer camps, teacher trainings, and facilities improvements. Many members of our faculty traveled in North America to professional development trainings and enrichment opportunities in preparation for the upcoming school year. This week, all faculty and staff were inspired by their back-to-school conference in preparation for the new year, led by educator Michael D'Aleo.

Several additional faculty and staff changes occurred over the summer, most recently the departure of Lilith Dupuis (Eurythmy Teacher) who has moved on to a Waldorf school in Northern California. Our new Eurythmist is Rachael Abbott, and her biography is included in the new faculty list, which is enclosed. Kristi Kilcollins (HS Coordinator) will also not be returning as she has accepted an offer to take a grades class at a sister school. While we re-examine this position, Gina Garrison has stepped in to offer administrative support. We are excited to announce Lisa Westerhout as our new School Counselor. Lisa will be offering high school student support for social/emotional and academic needs, as well as post-secondary career counseling. Nicole Nathanson is our new Middle School Resource Teacher. The Middle School Resource Teacher serves as a specialist in math, reading and writing for grades 6-8.

Below are just a few key dates to note:

- The First Day of School - Tuesday, September 4
- New Family Orientation - Wednesday, September 5
- High School Parent Evening - Wednesday, September 12
- Back to School Night - Friday, September 21

Enclosed in this packet are highlights of key information to help you plan and facilitate a smooth transition back to school. These include the school calendar with all major events for the 2018-19 school year, information regarding the new lunch program, new faculty members, highlights regarding key school procedures and policies, and a Parent's Guide on how to support and get involved in our school community.

We look forward to having your children back on campus for another exceptional year here at WSOC!

Sincerely,

Lorri Valenzuela-Mier
Co-Chair, College of Teachers

Gina Garrison
Co-Chair, College of Teachers



New Faculty and Staff - 2018-2019

Rachael Abbott (High School Eurythmy Teacher) - Rachael is a Waldorf graduate; she attended Green Meadow Waldorf School from kindergarten through grade 12. She studied Visual Arts at both Emerson College and Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art and went on to complete the Foundation Studies program at the Sunbridge Institute. She earned a B.A. at the Eurythmum Stuttgart in Artistic and Pedagogic Eurythmy followed by a M.A.Ed. from Freie Hochschule Stuttgart with an emphasis on Eurythmic Pedagogy. Prior to joining our faculty, she worked at the Pasadena Waldorf School. Rachael continues to perform eurythmy internationally with a variety of renowned artists.

Tara Cannon (High School Administrative Assistant) - Tara began her 20 years of experience in project management in television production and then moved into large entertainment venues managing events and productions, and finally landed in the nonprofit fundraising world. Tara chaired the WSOC Gala for two years, and currently sits on Parent Association Leadership. She grew up in Long Beach, is a graduate of CSULB.

Michael D'Aleo (High School Physics Teacher) - Michael was a co-founder of the high school at the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs, New York, where he taught physical science and astronomy. He instructs Waldorf physical science teachers at The Center for Anthroposophy in Wilton, New Hampshire, and is a guest teacher at various teacher training institutions and Waldorf Schools around the world. He is the co-founder and leader of the successful science teacher training, "Teaching Sensible Science." Michael has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rutgers University, where he graduated Summa cum Laude. He also holds a M.A.Ed. from the Sunbridge Institute.

Ingrid Feck (High School Chemistry and Mathematics Teacher) - Ingrid has a long history with WSOC. She taught eight years as a class teacher followed by seven years in our high school as the lead math and chemistry teacher. Ingrid was one of our high school's founding teachers. She earned a M.S. in mathematics and a B.S. in biochemistry and computer science. Following the 2014-15 school year, Ingrid left the high school to focus on raising her young twins who will be joining our kindergarten class in the fall.

Douglas Garrett (School Administrator) Douglas' Waldorf journey began here at WSOC many years ago with his two daughters, who both attended Kindergarten through Grade 8. His experiences as a Waldorf parent led him to a deepening study into the foundations of Waldorf Education and service on several Waldorf school boards, the board of AWSNA and accreditation work. Douglas returns to WSOC after four years as Business Administrator at Pasadena Waldorf School.

Paul Gierlach (High School Humanities Teacher) - Paul brings nearly forty years of experience as a Waldorf educator. He has been a class teacher and high school humanities teacher for most of his career. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Vincent's College and York University, respectively, and completed his Waldorf teacher training at the Waldorf Institute of Mercy College in Detroit.

Pavel Hanustiak (Lower School Eurythmy Teacher) - Pavel relocated from Slovakia where he founded and led a Eurythmy training school. Pavel received his Eurythmy certification from the Goetheanum in Switzerland. He was a class teacher who graduated his grade 8 class in 2017. Pavel has a BS in Mathematics, as well as a Waldorf Grades Certificate.



Nicole Nathanson (Middle School Resource Teacher) - Nicole has worked as an educator interfacing with students with a wide array of learning styles and challenges in different classrooms including Waldorf, identifying learning needs and creating individual learning plans. The Middle School Resource Teacher serves as a specialist in math, reading and writing for grades 6-8. Nicole received her MA in Education from Pepperdine University.

Sara Rodelo (Grade 2 Assistant) - Sara has a BA degree in International Relations and Spanish. She attended both San Francisco State University and the University of Madrid Complutense. She graduated in June from the WSOC grades training program.

Mimi Sueda (Payroll/Benefits Coordinator) Mimi joins us with years of experience in payroll and benefits processes for large and small businesses. With a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, she worked for eight years as a substitute teacher in the Fountain Valley School District and is excited to be combining her love of business and education. She holds a BA from UCI and an MBA from University of Washington, Seattle.

Matthew Troedson (Grade 1 Teacher) - Mr. Troedson received his AWSNA Grades Teacher certification from the Rudolf Steiner College in Fair Oaks, CA and holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with emphasis on multiple subject teaching from Brandman University. Prior to joining WSOC in Fall 2018, Mr. Troedson served as a Grades teacher at Cedar Springs Waldorf school in Placerville, California.

Lisa Westerhout (High School Counselor) - Lisa completed her M.A. in Counseling from Chapman University and her B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton with a minor in Special Education. She received her Certificate in College Admissions Counseling from UCLA and has a PPS Credential through the California Department of Education.

Giulia Vittori (Theater Teacher) - Giulia Vittori is an Italian artist/scholar who grew up in northern Italy and moved to California to pursue her Ph.D. in Theater and Performance Studies at Stanford University in 2009. Giulia attended the first year of the triennial Waldorf teacher training, which inspired her to develop her current interdisciplinary work between the visual and the performing arts. Giulia joined us in 2017, and will take a more active role this year in the high school.