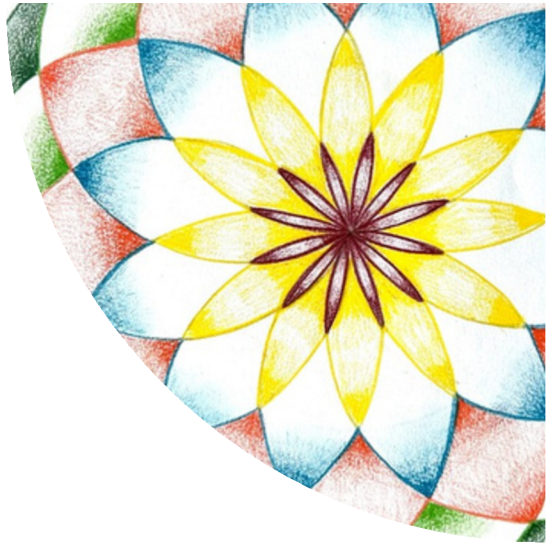




2025-2026 Olympia Waldorf School ANNUAL REPORT



AWAKENING MINDS,
ENLIVENING HEARTS,
ENGAGING HANDS
FOR LIFELONG
LEARNING



MISSION AND VALUES

- The Olympia Waldorf School's mission is to **"Awaken minds, Enliven Hearts, and Engage Hands for lifelong learning."** This guiding principle reflects the school's commitment to holistic education that nurtures intellectual, emotional, and practical development in students.
- In alignment with this mission, the school emphasizes a vibrant community, holistic educational excellence, a healthy workplace culture, and regional engagement. As a non-profit, independent, and non-sectarian institution serving students from toddler through grade 8, Olympia Waldorf School is accredited by the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and is a member of the Northwest Association of Independent Schools.
- The school is deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, striving to create a learning environment where all individuals are seen, heard, valued, and honored. It welcomes people of all cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, spiritual practices, bodies, and learning styles.
- Olympia Waldorf School's educational approach is rooted in the Waldorf philosophy, which focuses on the developmental stages of childhood and integrates academic, artistic, and practical learning. This method aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning in students.





"WHEN CHILDREN RELATE WHAT THEY LEARN TO THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE, THEY ARE INTERESTED AND ALIVE, AND WHAT THEY LEARN BECOMES THEIR OWN. WALDORF SCHOOLS ARE DESIGNED TO FOSTER THIS KIND OF LEARNING."

~ Henry Barnes



FROM OUR CO-ADMINISTRATORS



Sweekriti Apple / Co-Lead Administrator Kelly Horn / Co-Lead Administrator

Dear Families and Friends of Olympia Waldorf School,

Every school year is a beautiful mosaic of moments that, together, tell the story of our community. This year, as we celebrated Olympia Waldorf School's fortieth anniversary, those moments felt especially meaningful. We began with a memorable evening honoring our history, where alumni parent Jeremy Hagquist premiered *Waltz of the Gnomes* and alumni parent and former Board President Miguel Perez-Gibson performed for alumni, founding families, faculty, and friends. Throughout the year, our campus was enriched by extraordinary visitors and shared experiences. Peter Yencken inspired students through traditional craft, guiding the creation of knives, bows, and felted slippers while leading a survival skills course with our eighth graders. Peter Ali's Native flute performance during the Festival of Courage invited reflection and wonder, while our faculty participated in the City of Olympia's Indigenous Peoples Day at Squaxin Park, deepening our commitment to honoring the first peoples of this land. Beautification Weeks, led by Facilities Manager Steven Svach, renewed our campus through many helping hands, while parent education offerings—including Beth Kim's presentation on perfectionism and Nate Berner Tobin's *Shaping the Future of Our Boys*—supported families in the important work of raising children. Move Up Day and our annual Review Days reflected the same spirit of stewardship, with families, faculty, and staff coming together to celebrate, restore, and care for our campus. Throughout it all, the Parent Association reminded us of the strength of community through service, nourishing lunches, treats, and opportunities for connection. We are especially grateful to outgoing PA chairs Brittney Svach and Sara Macias for the care they poured into supporting our faculty and staff. Our Board also focused on strategic planning and fundraising, and we are grateful for their leadership.

Amid these celebrations, much of the year's work centered on an important milestone in the life of our school. This year encompassed the bulk of our self-study, the second of three years in our accreditation process and our third seven-year cycle toward continued full membership in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). This fall we will welcome colleagues from the Waldorf

Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN), followed by the AWSNA accreditation team in the spring. Preparing for these visits has invited deep reflection. Faculty, staff, and trustees have examined each accreditation principle, writing narratives that describe not only what we do, but how Waldorf education lives within our community. This fall we will revisit those reflections to ensure they authentically represent our daily work and aspirations. When the visiting team arrives, we will open both our doors and our hearts, sharing our successes, acknowledging where we continue to grow, and welcoming thoughtful feedback from experienced colleagues. Accreditation is more than an evaluation; it is an opportunity to deepen our practice, strengthen our community, and recommit ourselves to serving children and families with integrity and purpose.

Thank you for the countless ways you nurture Olympia Waldorf School. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, alum, faculty member, staff member, donor, volunteer, or friend, the heart of this school beats because of your participation, generosity, and belief in our shared mission. As we celebrate forty years of growth, learning, and wonder, we do so with deep gratitude for all who have shaped this community and with excitement for what lies ahead. We look forward to continuing this journey together and to another year filled with beauty, discovery, and connection.

With gratitude,

Kelly Horn and Sweekriti Apple, Co-Lead Administrators



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Families and Friends of Olympia Waldorf School,

One of the greatest gifts of reinvigorating our annual report is the opportunity it creates for reflection. Waldorf practitioners, unlike layperson board members, are experts at this work, and I have learned so much from serving alongside them. As we approach our third year in the AWSNA accreditation process, structured reflection has become woven into the already rich meeting life of our collegial body. Add to that our fortieth year as a school—a milestone that naturally invites us to look back—and we have had no shortage of opportunities to ask who we are, why we do what we do, and how we move forward. I am deeply grateful to be doing that work with this remarkable community.

This year was full of beauty, curiosity, and growth. We began with our fortieth birthday celebration on a warm September evening, where founding families, faculty, and current parents gathered to share stories, laughter, music, and gratitude for the tremendous work of those who built the school our children enjoy today. As a parent, I could fill this letter with cherished moments: the Lantern Walk (my oldest attended her last one, a bittersweet milestone), the Festival of Courage, Winter Faire, remarkable field trips, our new Hike and Create event, and the sunniest May Faire I can remember.

But those celebrations are only part of what makes this school extraordinary. The quieter acts of generosity and service tell an even richer story: parents holding jump ropes for the third graders each morning, children gathering to sing the school song at assembly, or families old and new connecting during Merry Monday in the Kinderwoods. Our community is magic, and the tapestry of our shared striving creates something far stronger than any one thread.

This year, the board also took significant steps toward planning for our school's future. We are deeply grateful to alumni parents Kara Walk and Tom Rieger, along with alumnus Imani Elite, for sharing their architectural expertise as we explored our long-term facilities needs. Their work will help guide the next five years of financial and campus planning. We are equally grateful to first-grade parent Nick Taylor for leading a long-overdue campus survey that gave us valuable insight into the unique strengths of our campus. Together, these efforts have given us real momentum as we look toward 2026–27.

Looking back on both the milestones and the everyday moments, my deepest gratitude is for our faculty and administration, whose love and care shape this school every day. Our families bring that same intention to supporting their children and this community. It is a privilege to serve alongside all of you, and I look forward to another year of reflecting, growing, and celebrating together.

Warmly,

Meaghan Anderson
President, Board of Trustees (2024–present)



Meaghan Anderson / *Board President*



ENROLLMENT

Expected enrollment at Olympia Waldorf School for Fall 2026 is 156 students, with 95 students in first through eighth grade and 61 students in preschool and kindergarten. The student-teacher ratio is approximately 8:1, allowing for personalized attention and small class sizes. Class sizes are intentionally kept small, with a maximum of 22 students per class, though most classes have fewer students. The school maintains one class per grade from first through eighth, with a blended sixth/seventh class, and offers three kindergarten and two preschool classes. In early childhood programs, the ratio is one teacher per seven children.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

One of the ways Olympia Waldorf enriches the academic experience of each and every student is by prioritizing continuous professional development and ongoing education for the faculty who breathe life into our curriculum. Here are just a few of the educational adventures of our faculty that took place this past year and will occur during our new school year.

Over the 2026 summer season, fourteen lead and subject faculty participated in summer intensives, which are immersive courses in content knowledge that directly inform their work for the upcoming year. Three faculty members attended the AWSNA annual conference in New Hampshire. Four Early Childhood lead teachers and the extended care coordinator went to Portland to attend the WECAN conference. Two lead teachers were given external evaluations from longtime Waldorf teachers, and ten faculty connected with master Waldorf teachers supporting their instruction for the upcoming year. Additionally, we have three faculty members currently in Waldorf certification programs, and one faculty member participated in the foundational studies program for Waldorf Education.

*New faculty
for 2026:*



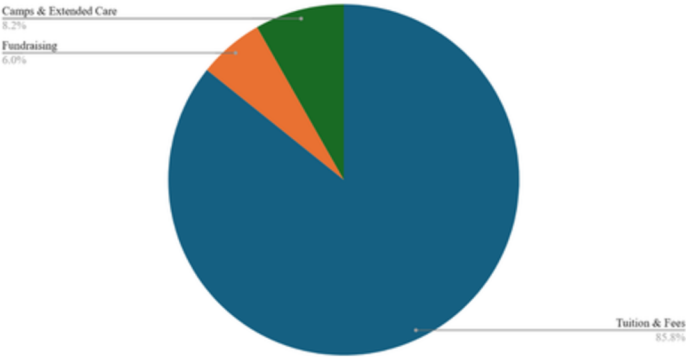
Marcie Linn Giamona (Ms. Marcie)
New 1st Grade Teacher



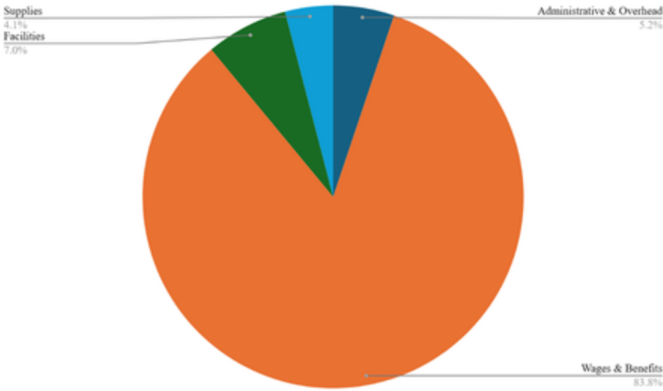
Alyson G
Spanish Teacher

2025-2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Income
\$1,974,625



Total Expenses
\$1,967,831



FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

In recent years, our fundraising efforts (inclusive of Winter Faire proceeds, Gala/Auction revenue, the Fun Run, and other smaller endeavors) have netted on average under \$50,000. Last year was our strongest single year of fundraising in history! Between our Gala, Fun Run, the new EC Hike and Create, and our beautiful Winter and May Faires, we ended the year having raised just about \$120,000! Our goal moving forward is for our annual fundraising total of \$120,000, allowing us to go beyond breakeven toward a solid and stable cash reserve to prepare for expansion and to offer a support net for unanticipated costs. While we are still not ready to launch our capital campaign due to a weaker enrollment projection than anticipated, the board is continuing to envision an expanded indoor space to accommodate larger class sizes, specialty classes, teacher work and meeting space, and a more cohesive administrative office space.

SAVE THE DATES!

November 1-8: Online Auction

All are welcome to join in the fun of the online auction!

learn more here!

November 7th: Our Annual Auction/Gala – “The Dreamer’s Big Top!”

This event, will take place at the Heritage Room in downtown Olympia. Invitations coming soon.!



December 5th: Winter Faire! We hope to see you there! Gingerbread will be a plenty!



WAYS TO DONATE!

Each and every gift is critical! Your donation is a measure of confidence in this amazing school and a show of gratitude for what OWS is offering to our children. Your generous contribution will help ensure that our school continues to thrive!

Donate here!



Mail checks to:

Olympia Waldorf School
PO BOX 130, East Olympia, WA,
98540



STAY CONNECTED

We invite our alumni students, parents and grandparents to stay connected in numerous ways (festivals, events, alumni nights, volunteering, etc) and are hoping to establish a master database of alumni contacts..something our school needs! Please make sure we have your current email and mailing address to stay informed about opportunities to engage in and support OWS.

**Connect with us
here!**



Email us!

development@olympiawaldorf.org