

## Recent Professional References for Fernando Ayala

### **Ms. Karen Fenswick – Ocean Charter School, Main Classroom Teacher (4 years)**

*“... I have worked closely with the children of Mr. Ayala’s class [for three consecutive years]... I was therefore, heartened and inspired to meet Mr. Ayala and discover him to be a dedicated teacher with a kind, firm, gentle presence, and a truly openhearted willingness to seek his way forward in a curriculum and philosophy that can seem exciting yet sometimes confusing or overwhelming... The dedication Mr. Ayala shows to his students is nothing short of exceptional.”*

### **Mrs. Hiromi Yoneda-Matsue – Ocean Charter School, Japanese Teacher (4 years)**

*“... I personally respect Mr. Ayala and he has been a very supportive class teacher for me. I especially like his organization, structure and consistency he provides to his class, which I believe is the basis and most essential ingredients to pursuing the success of a Waldorf classroom.*

*This is my fourth year teaching this class and I am so grateful to have been a first hand witness to these childrens' amazing development... I believe much of this can be attributed to Mr. Ayala's tremendous contribution of time and effort, but more importantly to his guidance and trusting relationship with his class. With such a difficult time in the children's development approaching, I honestly believe this class will deepen their relationship with Mr. Ayala's continued leadership and that will enhance their growth and blossoming in the future.*

*In my opinion, Mr. Ayala is very good teacher and I believe will become a wonderful Waldorf teacher for Ocean Charter School. As a subject teacher, maybe my part is very small, but my thoughts are always with the children...”*

### **Ms. Chantal Abbey – Ocean Charter School, Resource Teacher (1 year)**

*“... [Mr. Ayala] is highly motivated and focused and due to this, so are all of his students...”*

*On top of this, he has a solid work ethic. He is a hard worker and is steadfast and reliable. Once committed to a goal or task, he works with diligence and discipline until he has successfully completed the job. For example, teaching most of his students is never good enough for Fernando. He is diligent in teaching to all types of learners. His students not only hear the lesson, they also see it, do it and create it whenever possible...*

*Because [Mr. Ayala] is conscientious and intelligent, he has an excellent command of his subject matter and knows how to teach it. I have witnessed how students respond well and learn quickly when these qualities are present.”*

### **Ms. Tedra Dobbs – Ocean Charter School, PE Teacher (4 years)**

*“... Mr. Ayala has a kind and firm way with the class, which in my opinion is what they truly need. There have been several issues with personalities in this class and when it came time to work them out between students Mr. Ayala was extremely supportive of both the children and me as a colleague.*

*He shows caring and dedication to developing as a Waldorf teacher, no small task. He has made large strides this year in facilitating the curriculum. As you may know, we are all works in progress and a year with Waldorf education is like taking your first steps as a child, uncertain and fantastic.”*

### **Mrs. Terry Blecher – Ocean Charter School, Handwork Teacher (5 years)**

*“... [Mr. Ayala] is very clear, kind and engaged with the children. It is a joy to walk into the classroom and see the children peaceful and enthusiastic about what they are learning.*

*I find him to be a wonderful role model for the children. He is both strong and gentle and he clearly enjoys the children. I believe that his strength and warmth bring out the best in the children. Mr. Ayala makes his expectations very clear so that the children can feel proud and successful... Most importantly I can feel their hearts opening because Mr. Ayala has created a safe and wonderful learning environment for them.”*

### **Ms. Daisy Simons – Ocean Charter School, Main Classroom Teacher (6 years)**

*“... I am writing to express my support for Fernando Ayala as a colleague. He has been a pleasure to work with this year. His cheerfulness and courtesy bring a lot to our school and I have enjoyed getting to know him in meetings and impromptu conversations. I find him professional and dedicated...”*

*It has been painful to discover that Mr. Ayala has been the subject of extreme scrutiny and what I consider bullying by a couple families in his class – families with a history of belligerence at OCS...*

*Mr. Ayala has the potential to be a terrific Waldorf teacher and I would like to see our school approach him in his professional development with as much faith and compassion as we would any of our precious students.”*

## **(Cont.) Recent Professional References for Fernando Ayala**

### **Mrs. Tamar Kern – Ocean Charter School, Main Classroom Teacher (6 years)**

*“Fernando has shown amazing diligence and commitment to our curriculum here at Ocean Charter School. I met him a few years ago when he first applied to teach with us, and I was thrilled to see that we had affected him enough to make him want to try again. He has been open and warm and curious and questioning...all my favorite traits in a teacher. I wish that [my son] Atticus could have experienced such a thoughtful directed teacher.”*

### **Mrs. Laura Wilde – Master Teacher, Mentor and Parent**

*“It is a pleasure to recommend Mr. Fernando Ayala for a teaching position at your school... His service and professionalism led to him becoming a valued member of our learning community.*

*I first met Mr. Ayala in June 2009, during a comprehensive week-long training for new OCS teachers. I discovered him to be a dedicated educator who... has an abundance of spirit, energy and enthusiasm, which are valuable qualities for any teacher starting a new curriculum...*

*He devotes every moment of his school day to [his students], followed by afternoons and evenings working with colleagues, other mentors, the Administration, and independently, to develop Waldorf-informed educational approaches and methods. Since his start at OCS, Fernando has always been proactive in seeking guidance and clarification to questions and concerns he encounters.*

*During my weekly scheduled and unplanned visits to Mr. Ayala’s class, I feel confident that the learning environment will always be positively directed. It is reassuring to know that the class atmosphere is well managed for the students’ best interests. Because of Fernando’s consistency to maintain an organized and peaceful classroom, I always look forward to the opportunity of co-teaching enriching lessons involving music, art, or any relevant activity with him.”*

### **Mr. and Mrs. Craig Nuesca – Ocean Charter School, Parents**

*“... We have seen a change in Jake’s attitude towards school this year in a positive way as he is being challenged academically and he is learning a great deal of independence and responsibility from Mr. Ayala...”*

*Mr. Ayala has had many challenges coming into our class, extremely opinionated and outspoken parents, personal threats and bullying. All things that have been going on in this class since 1st grade and hopefully cease in our classroom as well as at our school on all levels... We see Mr. Ayala taking great strides to bring the Waldorf Methodology to his students.”*

### **Mr. Kendell Shaffer & Mrs. Jefferson Eliot – Ocean Charter School, Parents**

*“...Sydney is thriving in Mr. Ayala’s class. She seems to have gained a love of learning... She is mastering math and is rejoicing in her spelling tests. She reads non-stop and writes in her journal every day and has been writing many short stories just for fun...”*

### **Mr. Mario Jojola and Mrs. Margo Fownes – Ocean Charter School, Parents**

*“... We are extremely pleased with Emily’s progress both academically and socially. She has always had a natural facility for arts and crafts, this is one of the reasons that we chose OCS, but under Mr. Ayala’s guidance we have seen her language and math skills blossom.*

*We feel that his influence has been very beneficial to Emily and in speaking with some of the other parents about his effect on their children they seem to agree... We are sure that the search committee questioned Mr. Ayala extensively and looked into his background to be sure that he was right for our school. We think that they did an excellent job. He is kind, caring and committed.”*

### **Mr. and Mrs. Pete Morris – Ocean Charter School, Parents**

*“We want to voice our support for Mr. Ayala’s wonderful teaching and his following of the Whole Child Curriculum’s 14 learning strategies, as described on OCS’s website. Our son is having his best school year ever—academically, socially, emotionally. He has learned so much, has a wider range of friends, and now feels respected in the classroom. These changes are obvious at home and in his other activities as well.”*