

*"Together we can and do
make a difference!"*



The Globe

CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

425 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110 • Telephone: 860-233-8506 • Fax: 860-231-9654

Issue No. V.

November 10, 2017

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear Charter Oak Families:

We have had an exciting beginning of November that shows the strength of our program and the important contribution the World Language Department plays in supporting our mission to help develop internationally minded children.

As you can see in this issue of our newsletter our fifth graders enjoyed a fantastic visit to the United Nations in New York City where, with the support of our teachers, parent-chaperones, and the leadership of Montse Rich, our Spanish teacher, students were able to inquire and learn the role this international organization plays in creating a better and more peaceful world. Our sincere appreciation to the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools for supporting this trip through a generous grant and to the Charter Oak PTO for their equally critical contribution.

During our visit to the UN we received the news that Mrs. Jingjing Wu, our Chinese teacher, was this year's recipient of the Yao Memorial Award for Outstanding New Teacher. This award is given by CLASS, the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools. The Yao Memorial Award for the Outstanding New Teacher "recognizes an individual of the Chinese teaching profession who has been teaching in K-12 public or independent schools for less than five years and is currently in a full time position. The applicants must demonstrate excellence and passion in teaching the Chinese language and culture."

Congratulations to Mrs. Wu for this truly extraordinary accomplishment that makes us all very proud and realize, once again, how fortunate we are at Charter Oak for having a program, unique in West Hartford, that gives our students such an incredible opportunity to explore new cultures, practices, and perspectives.

Another unique feature of our IB school is the student-led conferences. They are starting this coming Tuesday, November 14th. I hope you find this experience informative and rewarding. I often say that if you are new to our school you will be impressed with the process. Our teachers and the your children have been getting ready for their conferences with great focus and excitement and I am confident that they will demonstrate to you their best reflective skills as IB learners. Please don't hesitate to let us know your opinion about student-led conferences. We are always looking for ways to improve! Please make sure that you mark conference days on your calendar since dismissal time changes during Conference Week.

One final thought. With the imminent arrival of colder weather, please remember that more traffic congestion is likely to happen at drop-off and dismissal. In cold weather conditions more students are driven to school so please plan to take extra time to come to school. It is particularly important to be extra cautious at dismissal when parking can be a challenge and many parents and students need to cross streets in less than ideal circumstances. Also, with cold weather it is very important that our students come to school with appropriate attire. Our students spend time outdoors during recess. Warm clothes, gloves, hats, and boots are required during winter months. Also, with temperatures going down it is extremely important that students are not dropped at school before the time doors open, at 8:20 for everybody and at 8:05 for students eating breakfast in the cafeteria. Only students with pre-arranged and supervised activities can enter the building before those times.

I look forward to seeing all of you next week for conferences and on behalf of the entire Charter Oak staff I would like to wish our families a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Melián'.

Juan Melián
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oaks:

Estamos teniendo un comienzo de noviembre vibrante que muestra la fortaleza de nuestro programa y la importante contribución que el Departamento de Lenguas Extranjeras tiene en Charter Oak ayudando a que nuestros estudiantes crezcan con una visión internacional del mundo.

Como podrán ver en esta edición de *The Globe*, los estudiantes de quinto grado disfrutaron de una visita fantástica a las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York donde, con la ayuda de nuestros profesores, padres monitores y el liderazgo de la Señora Rich, nuestra maestra de Español, nuestros chicos tuvieron la oportunidad de explorar y aprender más sobre el papel que juega esta organización en crear un mundo mejor y más pacífico. Gracias a la Fundación y a la Organización de Padres de Charter Oak por apoyar este viaje con contribuciones realmente generosas.

Durante la visita a las Naciones Unidas recibimos noticia de que la Señora Jingjing Wu, nuestra maestra de Chino, era la ganadora del premio Yao Memorial Award for Outstanding New Teacher de este año. Este premio es entregado por CLASS (Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools) que es la Asociación de Profesores de la Lengua China para Escuelas Primarias y Secundarias. El galardón reconoce a individuos en la enseñanza del Chino que han trabajado en escuelas públicas o independientes por menos de 5 años y que demuestran excelencia y pasión por la lengua y la cultura chinas.

Felicitaciones a la Señora Wu por este reconocimiento verdaderamente notable que nos hace a todos sentir muy orgullosos y nos hace ver, una vez más, lo afortunado que somos todos en Charter Oak por tener un programa que es único en las escuelas de West Hartford, ofreciendo a nuestros estudiantes una oportunidad de explorar nuevas culturas, prácticas y perspectivas.

Otro rasgo distintivo de nuestra escuela IB son las conferencias guiadas por nuestros estudiantes. Las conferencias comienzan el martes 14 de noviembre. Espero que disfruten de ellas. A menudo digo que si usted es nuevo en Charter Oak, estará impresionado con el proceso. Nuestros profesores y sus hijos han estado preparándose con gran determinación. Tengo la confianza de que demostrarán a todos ustedes sus habilidades reflexivas como estudiantes IB. No dude en comunicar con nosotros para darnos su opinión sobre este modelo y por favor consulte el horario escolar durante la semana de conferencias dado que la hora de salida cambia.

Una última nota. Con la llegada del frío, recuerde que es probable que haya más congestión de tráfico a la hora de comienzo y salida de la escuela. Use tiempo extra para llegar a la escuela. Es particularmente importante tener cuidado en la salida cuando muchos padres han de cruzar la calle en condiciones que no son ideales. También les recordamos que con el tiempo frío es esencial que los chicos vengán a la escuela bien equipados con ropa de invierno. Nuestro deseo es que salgan al recreo cada día y para ello es importante tener ropa cálida, guantes, gorras, botas, etc. Además, con temperaturas bajas, evite llegar antes de que las puertas abran a las 8:20 para todos y a las 8:05 para aquellos que desayunan en la escuela. Solo estudiantes que participan en actividades supervisadas y organizadas por personal escolar pueden entrar antes de esa hora.

Les espero con ilusión la semana que viene durante las conferencias. En nombre de todos en Charter Oak, querría desearles un muy feliz descanso durante el receso de Acción de Gracias.

Paz,

Juan Melián
Principal

Student-Led Conferences

As an International Baccalaureate World School, we embrace a student-centered approach to learning. Research indicates that student-led conferences encourage students to take ownership of their learning as they begin to understand and articulate their strengths or areas of challenge. Students also develop leadership, communication skills, and a strong sense of self.

Student-led conferences provide a powerful opportunity for students, teachers and parents to engage in a conversation about learning. To prepare for conferences, students work in collaboration with teachers to prepare information and talking points in advance according to grade level criteria. Students reflect on their academic, social, and emotional growth and present their information to their parents. Teacher facilitation varies, depending on the age of the student. Parents are active participants who are a critical part of this process.

There are many benefits of student-led conferences:

- Students learn to monitor their academic progress and make connections with personal growth through data.
- Students accept responsibility for their academic performance.
- Parents and children engage in open and honest dialogue about personal goals and academic growth.
- Students learn the process of self-evaluation and reflection.
- Students develop organizational and communication skills.
- Students are empowered to articulate their own perspective about their learning.

How can parents best support student-led conferences?

- Be positive.
- Be inquisitive and ask questions (see samples on the next page).
- Offer feedback and support.
- Celebrate their child's successes.
- Identify and support what your child needs to succeed.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students and families next week for this powerful, collaborative process as we celebrate our children's active minds and caring hearts and support their ongoing growth as IB learners.

Kirsten Sanderson
IB Coordinator

Kids in Divorce and Separation: Kids Group



Kids Group will meet after school on Tuesdays from 3:20 to 4:15. The Group is for children at Charter Oak International Academy whose families are experiencing separation, divorce, death of a loved one or other circumstances of loss. Children are often in need of extra caring at a time when parents are also struggling with difficult issues. KIDS join together in a safe and positive club-like setting with other children experiencing family adjustments. The group is now forming. There is no charge. Parent/Guardian permission is required. The program is facilitated by Mrs. Colleen Murphy Hilliard, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from The Bridge Family Center. For information, please contact Mr. Chuck Hummel, School Social Worker at Charter Oak at 860-233-8506 Ext. 5562.



Reflective

I think about my own work. I know when I've done well, and when I could have done better.

Student-Led Conferences Parent Questions and Comments

In an effort to make our student--led conferences as interactive as possible, here are some questions/comments you might discuss with your child as you sit down and re-view the report card and work samples.

- What are your goals for the next semester?
 - How can we support you at home, and help you achieve your goals?
 - What makes you proud?
 - What is your favorite subject? Why?
 - What work is most challenging? Why?
 - How have you become more independent?
 - Do you participate in class discussions and activities?
 - What strengths/weaknesses do you bring to partner/group projects?
 - What changes would you like to make?
- Is there something you wish your teacher knew about you?
-



Reflexivo

*Pienso en mi propio trabajo.
Sé cuando lo he hecho bien,
y cuando podía haberlo hecho
mejor.*

Conferencias dirigidas por los Estudiantes Preguntas y Comentarios de los Padres

- *¿Cuáles son tus metas para el próximo semestre?*
 - *¿Cómo podemos apoyarte en casa, y ayudarte a alcanzar tus metas?*
 - *¿Qué te hace sentir orgulloso(a)?*
 - *¿Cuál es tu asignatura/materia favorita? ¿Por qué?*
 - *¿Qué trabajo es el más difícil? ¿Por qué?*
 - *¿Cómo te has vuelto más independiente?*
 - *¿Participas en las discusiones y actividades de clase?*
 - *¿Qué puntos fuertes / debilidades aportas a proyectos en grupo o en pareja?*
 - *¿Qué cambios te gustaría hacer?*
 - *¿Hay algo que te gustaría que tu maestro(a) supiera de tí?*
-
- *Me complace ver tu esfuerzo en ...*
 - *Me siento orgulloso de tu mejora en ...*
 - *Sé que a veces tienes dificultad con ..., sin embargo ...*
 - *Me gustaría que te enfocaras en ...*
 - *Yo te puedo ayudar ...*
 - *Me gusta lo responsable que fuiste cuando ...*

Student Activities:

<u>Date/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Monday, 11/13</u> Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
PK Field Trip: Barron/McMurray & O'Connell	8:50 a.m.	Auerfarm
<u>Wednesday, 11/15</u> Band - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Thursday, 11/16</u> Chorus - Gr. 4&5	8:00 a.m.	Music Room
<u>Monday, 11/20</u> Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Tuesday, 11/21</u> Chorus - Gr. 4&5 (Note different day and time)	8:00 a.m.	Music Room
<u>Wednesday, 11/22</u> Band - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium

LOST AND FOUND



Our lost and found items have been spread out on a table in the lobby. Please come by and **check the table for any lost items during conference week!** Unclaimed items will be donated to charity the following week.

Veterans Day Ceremony



Please join us on **Friday, November 10, 2017** at **8:30 am**, as we gather in the auditorium to honor local veterans and military personnel. Students will read their writing and poetry and will perform musical tributes. As a school community, we will be making cards to send to veterans at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Veterans will also be visiting classrooms to share their experiences with students.

All Veterans Invited:

We would be honored to include any Charter Oak parents or family members, who are currently serving or who have served in the armed forces, with recognition at our ceremony. Please contact Janet Fournier with their names and contact information at 860-233-8506 or 860-232-8929.

Bakers Needed:

After the ceremony on Veterans Day we will be hosting a breakfast for our veterans. I am looking for volunteers to bake or send in breakfast items (danish, muffins, fruit, bagels, cream cheese, doughnuts, breads, juice, etc.) After breakfast, our guests will visit classrooms to talk to the students. Donations for the breakfast can be dropped off in the office before school on November 10th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (860) 233-8506. Thank you for your support.

Janet Fournier

Charter Oak International Academy Activity Lending Library Is Now Open For Business!



With funding provided by a grant obtained from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools, I have been able to purchase many new items for our Activity Lending Library—a school resource providing fun for ALL!

The lending library will be open for students to select a toy, game, or puzzle each Thursday before school, from 8:15-8:30. The items are housed in the Pupil Services suite room 117 and will be sent home in bags or backpacks to be borrowed for up to two weeks. Receptive and expressive language skills, social language skills, math skills, and fine motor skills may all be targeted in a play-based manner in order to enhance learning and carryover of skills at home. Spending time listening and talking with each other works on attention and focus to tasks, winning and losing, and not giving up when a task appears difficult, which are all skills addressed in the classroom as well.

Playing with games and toys together at home is a great way to be an IB Learner and practice many skills such as being a Communicator: families talk about what they are playing, speak in complete sentences, make eye contact, take turns, and retell the sequence of events. Students can also be Inquirers: they read the directions provided with the game, ask “what if” questions and create their own variations of the rules. Playing games promotes Personal, Social and Physical skills while players follow directions, take turns, use fine motor skills, and model good sportsmanship, a great life skill, while both winning and losing in the comfort of home. Students can be Risk Takers when selecting activities they may not know much about, and can be Caring and Open-Minded about the selections their friends make. Students are Principled when they borrow these items and understand that they are to be taken care of at home so that when they are returned, other children can also enjoy them.

I hope you and your children enjoy playing with our new Lending Library activities!

Sincerely,
Alanna Goldberg
Speech-Language Pathologist

Picture Retake Day

Tuesday, November 14, 2017



Please clip Box Tops and drop them into the containers in the office. These earn money for our school.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Changes in dismissal plans do occur. Please make every effort to contact your teacher(s) with any changes.

Students must leave school grounds immediately each afternoon, unless accompanied by an adult, as schools are not responsible for supervision of children after dismissal. Children will:

- Take the bus home
- Walk home with written permission from parents.
- Be picked up promptly by parent or designated adult.

SAVE THE DATE



PTO Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2017
6:00 p.m.
Media Center

Veterans Day Celebration
Friday, November 10, 2017
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Auditorium

Morning Mindfulness
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Auditorium
8:00 a.m.

Photo Re-take Day
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Courtyard

Parent Conferences
Tuesday, November 14 – Friday, November 17
Various Classrooms

Morning Mindfulness
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Auditorium
8:00

THANKSGIVING RECESS



Thursday, November 23, 2017
Friday, November 24, 2017

What's Cooking at the FRC



When families have to cope with difficult times we can help. If your child or someone you know is experiencing a loss or separation please consider the FRC's KIDS group. KIDS is open to all students at Charter Oak in grades 1-5 who are dealing with family changes perhaps due to a divorce, military service, incarceration or loss. KIDS group is facilitated by Colleen Murphy, a licensed therapist from the Bridge Family Center and meets Tuesdays immediately after school in the Family Resource Center. There is no charge to participate. Please contact Mr. Hummel at [860-233 8506](tel:860-233-8506) or the Family Resource Center at [860-929-5575](tel:860-929-5575) for more information.

Once a month, during Pizza & Parenting, the FRC brings in a guest speaker who shares important information of interest to families. On Wed. Nov. 29 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM we'll be chatting with representatives from town social services. Astrid Calderon (COIA parent!) and Theresa Lerner will tell us about everything from heating assistance to emergency food and shelter. Pizza will be served and young children are welcome to come with their parents. Call us at [860-929-5575](tel:860-929-5575) and we'll save you a seat.

Please save the date: The first Family Academy of the year will be held on Sat. Dec. 2 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The morning will be filled with good food, surprises and lots of hands-on IB workshops for the whole family. Registration information will come home soon.

Deborah Zipkin, Director
The Family Resource Center at Charter Oak

Grade 3 News!

Wild Things!

In our “Wild Things” unit, third graders have been studying how living things adapt in order to survive, structural and behavioral animal adaptations, and our responsibilities to protect animal habitats. Our students were able to participate in 2 engaging experiences in October: A trip to Westmoor Park and a visit from Julie Anne Collier, a Wingmasters raptor rehabilitator from Massachusetts.

Our trip to Westmoor Park featured 4 activities:

- * A nature hike
- * Insect netting, collection and identification
- * Identification of animal skulls
- * A live animal experience where students got to pet a bunny, a duck, and Elvis the California King snake.

They were true risk-takers!

Thanks to a grant from The Foundation of West Hartford, 3rd grade students were able to experience six live birds of prey: The American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Red-Tailed Hawk, Saw-whet Owl, Great Horned Owl, and the Barn Owl. Julie Anne Collier challenged the students to point out the many adaptations of the birds as they rested on display on her arm. For more information about this amazing bird rehabilitation program, please visit <http://www.wingmasters.net/>.



Fondly,
The 3rd Grade Team
*Ms. Florence
*Ms. Giammatteo
*Mrs. Sortman

Building Up Your Home Library



Whether you are just beginning to build a home library or in need of taking a fresh look at your home library, having books for your child to read in a special place in your home, boosts the chance that your kids will want to read even more. Furthermore, having interesting things to read at home is a great way to keep them motivated.

One way to keep the selection of books in your home interesting is to participate in the Charter Oak Book Swap! Every Friday morning, students can bring a gently used book to swap for a “new” book off the cart. A staff member will be in the main entrance with the Book Swap cart to help students choose their “new” book.

Other great ways to collect books is to search out garage sales, used book stores, and sales at the local libraries. You can encourage family and friends to give books as gifts for birthdays and holidays. Lastly, don't forget about quality nonfiction and children's magazines.

You and your child can build a special place for your home library that is inviting and encourages regular reading at home. This might be a cozy corner in your child's bedroom, or close to where the rest of the family gathers and reads. You and your child can decorate a cardboard box or wooden crate to store books. Encourage your child to arrange the books in some order - favorite books, books about animals, similar topics or series. Use whatever method will help them most easily find the book they're looking for.

For more information on creating a literacy-rich home, visit www.ReadingRockets.org/article/c435.



Marcie Redden
Reading Specialist

ATTENDANCE

If your child(ren) will be absent or tardy from school, please call our school office at

(860) 233-8506.

If you are put into our voicemail system, press 1 to leave a recorded message. Please include the reason for the absence. This procedure will eliminate incorrect absence reporting as well as unnecessary phone calls to your home.

Calling Parent Volunteers Share Your Talents!

We are in the process of planning our Explorations program for this year. This is an after school enrichment program that will be offered on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 3:20-4:20. The first session will be January 9th-February 1st, it is a four class session.

Do you have an interest or talent you would be willing to share with our students? We are looking for parents to volunteer their time to run a course. Our goal is to offer our students opportunities to further explore the world from many different perspectives. We are looking to have our Exploration offerings relate to our school goals of being:

- Internationally Minded
- Inquiry Based
- Action Oriented
- Healthy Minds and Bodies

If you are interested, please contact Nanette at nanette_paridy@whps.org.

West Hartford's
HOLIDAY
—EXTRAVAGANZA—



1 DAY.
+25 LOCAL CRAFTERS.
COUNTLESS GIFT IDEAS.

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

VENDORS INCLUDE:

SCENTSY

THIRTY ONE

LULA ROE

TOUCHSTONE BY SWAROVSKI

PAMPERED CHEF

POOFY ORGANICS

YOUNIQUE



KEYNOTE HARMONY

USBOURNE BOOKS

PAPARAZZI JEWELRY

AVON

DOTERRA OILS

BEAN TREE BABY

AND MANY MORE!



Non Perishable food items being accepted for the West Hartford Food Bank

Bending Gravity Workshop

Saturday,
November 18, 2017
10:00 - 11:30AM



Circus performer Eric Girardi will entertain children of all ages in this high energy show and workshop. You, too, can learn how to be a circus performer!

Skills such as:

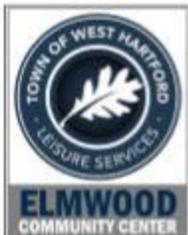
- *Yo-Yo tricks*
- *Juggling*
- *Multiple top-spinning*

will be taught and enjoyed by all.

A Holiday Treat to All

FREE ADMISSION!

Program # 372807A



ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

1106 New Britain Avenue West Hartford, CT 06110
860-561-8160

elmwoodcommunitycenter.com