

Dear Charter Oak Families:

We are already moving full steam ahead at Charter Oak. My hope is that you all feel that your children have had a good start and that they come to school happy and eager to learn and experience the many opportunities our staff and our community create.

I also hope that you have already been able to establish good lines of communications with your children's teachers and all of us here. Please make sure to let us know of any questions or suggestions you may have so we can address your child's needs as a team, based on a strong partnership with you.

As parents I'd also like to invite you to be part of the many opportunities our PTO offers. Our PTO has a real impact on our school and our students' experience at Charter Oak. Just recently, the PTO started a great forum for community discussions called CHAT. This is intended to be a series of events throughout the year, with the goal of bringing to the table topics of great interest for all of us. Last month we engaged in a great discussion looking for ways for the families to become more knowledgeable about what IB education means, familiarizing ourselves with key concepts that are a constant in your child's education.

This CHAT forum showed us the potential of what IB learning can have on all of us. We engaged in a lively discussion on what it means to be internationally minded and we looked at all aspects of our school's Learner Profiles. It was great to see how our families value all of them and how much they appreciate the effort in helping our students become stronger Risk Takers, Caring and Reflective to name a few. Thank you to all who participated and my sincere hope is that you join our next forum.

Working with the PTO we are already designing a new CHAT Forum for December that will focus on the idea of Welcoming Schools, our efforts to identify and eliminate possible structural and cultural inequities, and a reflection on where we are as a community when we start our third year in the new building. We have already experienced tremendous growth. Please join us for this discussion!

In the meantime I look forward to seeing all of you around, and specifically, at two major upcoming events. This coming Friday, October 19th we will enjoy our second *Voices* presentation. As you may remember *Voices* is a storytelling event featuring people from our community bringing great personal experiences and allowing us to get a deeper glimpse into people's lives, thoughts, experiences and journeys. This is a night for adults, for us to connect, to hear each other and have a good time. I hope you can make it.

Finally, on October 24th, our children will make us smile as they enjoy our traditional Masquerade Ball. So get ready for some fun at school. I always love to see the excitement of our students when "they" bring their families to school events at night!

Sincerely,

Juan Melián