

"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. III.

October 12, 2017

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear Charter Oak Families,

At the time you are receiving this issue of our newsletter we are enjoying two events that have become an important part of our school life: the Farmers' Market and the Literacy Night.

Thanks to the work of many parents, schools across town celebrate nature, nutrition and the idea of sustainability by bringing to our children produce from several local farms. At Charter Oak we are fortunate to have a community that values this celebration that we consider an essential part of our children's educational experience. On the same day staff, parents and students also celebrate our love of reading with interactive literacy activities for all ages including a book swap, word and letter games, book decoration, bilingual books, and lots and lots of reading.

This week also marked the beginning of our participation in the *Global Read Aloud* a truly unique experience designed to create some global connections for our students as they engage in reading. Just to give you some examples, kindergarteners will be reading a series of books by Australian writer Mem Fox. First graders have partnered with classes in North Carolina, Michigan and California. Second graders will be doing the same with peers in California and Minnesota. Third graders partnered with classes in Canada and California and fourth and fifth graders will connect with students in Argentina, Canada, New Zealand and Costa Rica. Don't miss the video announcement on our website where Charter Oak students explain what the *Global Read Aloud* is all about at <http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1479>.

Our commitment to meaningful and inspiring enrichment activities is strong at Charter Oak. Please remember to visit our website where you can also find, under School Information, a complete list of school events throughout the year.

This is also a good time to invite our parents to consider volunteering in *Explorations*, Charter Oak's after-school enrichment program. This year we are offering two sessions. The first one will run in January and the first part of February and the second one will cover March and part of April. Please contact us if you would like to be involved in this program that brings so many opportunities for our children to explore new areas of interest. More information to come!

Thank you for your partnership. I look forward to seeing all of you in the many opportunities we have at Charter Oak to come together as a community bringing our children a true sense of belonging to their school and joy for learning.

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

Juan Melián
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak,

Al recibir este número de nuestra revista mensual disfrutamos de dos eventos que se han convertido en una parte importante de la vida de nuestra escuela: el Mercado de Granjeros y la “Noche Literaria”.

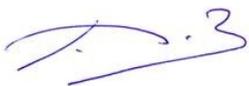
Gracias al trabajo de muchos padres, escuelas de todo el distrito escolar celebran la naturaleza, la nutrición y el concepto de sostenibilidad trayendo productos naturales desde distintas granjas locales. En Charter Oak nos enorgullecemos de tener una comunidad que valora esta celebración y que la considera una parte esencial de la experiencia educativa de nuestros niños. El mismo día nuestros profesores, padres y estudiantes también celebramos nuestro amor por la lectura con actividades de lectura interactivas para todas las edades, incluyendo intercambio de libros, juegos de palabras, decoración de libros, libros bilingües y mucha, mucha lectura.

Esta semana también marca el comienzo de nuestra participación en el programa *Global Read Aloud*, una experiencia realmente única diseñada para crear conexiones globales para nuestros estudiantes al tiempo que leen. Para darles algunos ejemplos, nuestros estudiantes de kindergarten leerán una serie de libros de la escritora australiana Mem Fox. Los de primero se han coordinado con estudiantes en Carolina del Norte, Michigan y California. Los de segundo harán lo propio con estudiantes de California y Minnesota. Los estudiantes de tercero colaborarán con clases de Canadá y California y los de cuarto y quinto conectarán con chicos de Argentina, Canadá, Nueva Zelanda y Costa Rica. No se pierdan el video en la página web de la escuela en donde nuestros estudiantes explican lo que es el *Global Read Aloud* en <http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1479>.

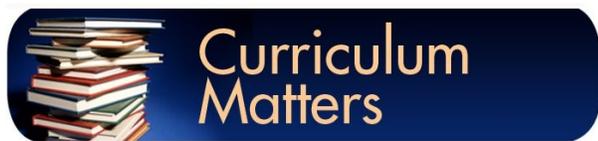
Nuestro compromiso con actividades de enriquecimiento que inspiren y tengan valor educativo es fuerte en Charter Oak. Por favor recuerde visitar nuestra página web donde también podrán encontrar, bajo School Information, una lista completa de eventos a lo largo del año.

También es un buen momento para invitar a nuestros padres a considerar participar como voluntarios en Explorations, el programa de enriquecimiento después de la escuela de Charter Oak. Este año ofrecemos dos sesiones que se celebrarán en enero y parte de febrero y en marzo y parte de abril. Por favor contacte con nosotros si desea colaborar en este programa que trae tantas oportunidades a nuestros estudiantes de explorar nuevas áreas de interés. Les ofreceremos más información pronto.

Gracias por su alianza con nosotros. Les espero con ilusión en las muchas oportunidades que tenemos en Charter Oak de unirnos como comunidad y ofrecer a nuestros niños un sentimiento de pertenencia a su escuela y amor por aprender.



Juan Meliàn
Principal



I would like to welcome back all of our Charter Oak families, and offer a warm welcome to new families joining us this year. At Charter Oak, families find a special place where they, along with their children and the Charter Oak Staff, work to build a caring community that brings out the lifelong learner in each and every one of us. We are on this journey together.

Our *IB Mission Statement* proclaims that we aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. We work on this goal daily, through connections with community members who open our eyes to what is happening around us, and the challenge we put on ourselves - to collaboratively solve our problems with all stakeholders, including children, making part in finding a solution. Our goal is to create a peaceful school community.

As children learn together, guided by our Units of Inquiry, they learn how to see situations differently (*Why is it like it is? How do we know?*); to understand others' perspectives (*What are the points of view? How is it connected to other things?*); and to ask deep questions that will guide their decisions (*How is it changing? What is our responsibility?*) *As an International Baccalaureate school, we encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners.*

Our beliefs about how children learn are also rooted in the IB Mission's understanding that other people, with their differences, can also be right. We celebrate our culturally diverse community, understanding that there is not one "right" way to teach all of our children. This understanding is also part of our journey as an IB school, and it inspires us to explore a wide variety of experiences that bring learning alive. The children's own questioning leads their investigations, and their emerging understanding may be exhibited in many different ways.

As a West Hartford Public School, we incorporate State Standards for writing, literacy, mathematics, science and social studies, music, world language, physical education, and art into our Inquiry Units and our daily instruction. We also bring our understanding of Inquiry, collaborative learning, and transdisciplinary connections to our teaching throughout the day, continuously finding new ways to make our teaching more inquiry-based. This drive to infuse the IB philosophy into all that we do requires time, collaborative effort, and deep reflection.

Along with our own efforts to reflect on and revise our units each year, State and District Standards also change. This year, new Social Studies standards in grades four and five are being introduced, as well as science standards in grades two and three. We will be collaborating as a staff to revise these units and ultimately our school-wide program of Inquiry over the next few years, as new standards are introduced at each grade level. This is an exciting time of renewal, with well-designed material to support teaching and learning. As always, student inquiry will be at the forefront - determining the directions these units may take.

Inquiry does not only happen in science and social studies, but in writing, with the use of mentor texts, "How did that author do that?" and conferencing to support writers, "I want to try it in my writing!" It also happens in math, through rich problem-solving experiences that engage groups of students in seeking solutions using the mathematical tools they have been learning - or have yet to learn. Inquiry is constant throughout the day, as children discover ways to solve social situations and take part in making our Charter Oak community ever-more caring, peaceful and respectful. Together, with their teachers, and their families, Charter Oak children lead our journey.

Kate Jerram,
Curriculum Specialist

Student Activities:

<u>Date/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Friday, 10/13</u> Gr. 5 Field Trip	9:00 a.m.	CT Energy Center
<u>Monday, 10/16</u> Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Wednesday, 10/18</u> Band - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Thursday, 10/19</u> Chorus - Gr. 4&5	8:00 a.m.	Music Room
<u>Friday, 10/20</u> Kindergarten Field Trip	8:55 a.m.	Fair Weather Farm
<u>Monday, 10/23</u> Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Wednesday, 10/25</u> Band - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Thursday, 10/26</u> Chorus - Gr. 4&5	8:00 a.m.	Music Room

InView Test of Cognitive Skills

3rd Grade Parents

During the third week of October, 16-20th all third graders will take the InView Test of Cognitive Skills. It is part of our townwide testing program, and the purpose of the test is to provide information on students' thinking and reasoning rather than on their achievement. The test takes approximately two hours and is completed in multiple sessions. The results are used as just one of several criteria for consideration in the QUEST (Gifted and Talented) process. Your assistance in assuring your child is well rested and present in school during this week will be helpful.

Veterans Day Ceremony



Please join us on **Friday, November 10, 2017** at **8:30 am**, as we gather around the flagpole 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 flagpole 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

At Charter Oak this year, every classroom is participating in the Global Read Aloud! What is the Global Read Aloud? The GRA was created in 2010 by a teacher from Wisconsin who is originally from Denmark. She had a simple goal in mind- she wanted to use one book to connect the world. The structure of the Global Read Aloud is that one book is picked for each grade/age range and teachers across the world all read that book (or set of books) to their classes during a set 6-week time period. During this time they also try to make global connections to other classes around the world who are reading the same book. The classes can connect digitally or even through regular mail to learn more about the locations and cultures of each school and to discuss their shared reading. This year there are more than 2 million students in over 80 different countries participating, including our very own Charter Oak! Here's how some of our grade levels and classes are connecting!

Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade students are participating in an author study of Mem Fox books. They are collaborating through Padlets, which are digital corkboards that people from all around the world can share information through writing, pictures and videos. The topics of the Padlets are related to the topics within each week's book. For example [exploring wild animals where you live](#) to relate to *Koala Lou* or [sharing foods that are special to our areas](#) to relate to *Possum Magic*. Our First Grade classes have also partnered with classes in North Carolina, Michigan and Southern California and are participating in Skype discussions, writing letters and also posting on Padlets.

Second and Third Grade classes are reading *Fenway and Hattie* by Victoria J. Coe. It's a fictional story that is told from a Jack Russell Terrier's point of view! Second graders are participating in [global discussions through Padlets](#), blogging and some second graders will even be participating in a Mystery Skype with a class somewhere in the world- they don't know yet, they have to inquire and figure it out! Third grade classrooms have partnered with classes to have weekly Skype discussions about the book. Their partner classes are located in Alberta, Canada, Oxnard, CA and San Jose, CA.

Fourth and Fifth Grade classes are reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. This story is an intriguing one that explores the relationship between nature and technology. Our Fourth Grade classes are participating in a Global Postcard Exchange and sending postcards to other schools across the globe. In return we are receiving them too! We received our first one from a school in California yesterday! Fifth graders are using a digital platform, Edmodo, to have collaborative discussions with students all across the world. They are working on creating discussion posts that facilitate conversations about the book and responding to other's posts to keep the conversation going!

Throughout this experience our students are building their love for literacy through these read alouds. They have also demonstrated their IB elements of being inquirers and thinkers as they worked to create questions and answer questions for their Mystery Skypes. Students are building their communication skills as they listen and talk to classes across the world through video conferencing, and by writing letters and blog posts too. They are being open-minded to other's perspectives and ideas and becoming more aware of similarities and differences between schools and locations around the world.

[Check out our video announcement that highlights some of our connections so far!](#)



Diana Coyne
Information and
Communications
Technology

SAVE THE DATE



Farmer's Market

Thursday, October 12, 2017
3:20-5:00 p.m.

Literacy Night

Thursday, October 12, 2017
6:00-7:30 pm
Various classrooms

Morning Mindfulness

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
World Language/Flex Room
8:00 a.m.

STAR Assembly

Monday, October 23, 2017
PK, K & Gr. 1 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Gr. 2 - 5 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.
Auditorium

Masquerade Ball PK - K & Gr.1

Thursday, October 26, 2017
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Gym/Café

Masquerade Ball Gr. 1 - 5

Friday, October 27, 2017
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Gym/Café

Election Day - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Veterans Day Celebration

Friday, November 10, 2017
8:30-10:30
Flagpole near playground

Parent Conferences

Tuesday, November 14 – Friday, November 17
Various Classrooms

WELCOME FROM THE LITERACY CENTER

Please join us tonight for
Family Literacy Night
October 12, 2017 6:00-7:30PM



Come learn about Charter Oak's participation in the
Global Read Aloud!

You can also choose from a variety of fun and interactive **Literacy activities** such as:

Bilingual Book Bonanza
Lego Block Poetry
Egg Carton Stories
Decorate a Writing Toolbox, Bookmark, or
Reading Journal
Construct a Robot Model and write a story
about your robot
And more!

We will also host a **book swap**. Bring your gently used book from home and swap it for another book.

Enjoy time with your family and take home goodies to continue the fun at home.

See you there!

Leigh Eppinger
Early Intervention Teacher

ELC Lottery Applications

The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. The program is family centered and has half day sessions that meet four days a week. A lottery will be conducted in January.

To be considered for the program, children must be three years old by September 1, 2018, toilet-trained by the start of the school year and exhibit age-appropriate language, social and play skills. All applicants must participate in a play-based screening prior to being considered for the lottery selection.

If you are interested, please contact Pam Macca at (860) 233-1455. The application process will close on December 15, 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Parent Conferences

Tuesday, November 14	1:30 Dismissal
Wednesday, November 15	2:00 Dismissal
Thursday, November 16	1:30 Dismissal
Friday, November 17	1:30 Dismissal

No after school activities EXCEPT for WHEE

LOST AND FOUND



Our lost and found is located in the metal trunk to the right of the Office Entry doors. Items have been spread out on table in the lobby. Please come by and check the table if you are missing any items. We will be donating to a charity this Friday, October 13, 2017.

What's Cooking at the FRC



Programs are in full swing down in Room 150. Join our English classes, bring your little one to an Early Learning Playgroup, chat with other grandparents who are helping to raise their grandchildren, take a parenting workshop or just stop in for a cup of coffee. We'd love to see you.

Please save the date- it will be here before we know it. **Family Academy, Sat. Dec. 2, 2017!**

Deborah Zipkin
FRC Director

News From the Band Room



4th grade band students have begun learning the proper care for their instruments, as well as learning beginning technique, playing position and posture, while making good sounds on their instruments. In the first month and a half of lessons they will be learning their first three note songs (Hot Cross Buns, Mary Had a Little Lamb). Percussionists are learning basic snare drum technique and how to read rhythms and control the speed of their drum sticks.

5th grade band students are continuing their instruction built off of last year. They are learning more challenging music and more sophisticated ensemble playing skills. The first few months of lessons are designed to prepare fifth grade students for Inter-El auditions. They are learning how to produce a more mature sound. 5th graders are learning new notes and scales to prepare them for middle school.

Have a young one at home? Can't concentrate through the sound of a struggling beginning clarinetist? Does your child find it hard to find practice time at home? **NO PROBLEM!** *ANY parent that is interested in having their child signed up for an after-school practice session should email Mr. Vita at michael_vita@whps.org and express their interest! This will be a free, once-a-week program and more information will be available soon!*

Michael Vita
Band Director

Welcome to Orchestra & Suzuki

Dear Charter Oak Families,

This year, students in the instrumental department are off to a great start! The Suzuki program is up and running and students have been focusing on correct playing positions and reviewing songs from last year. Both fifth grade band and orchestra rehearsals have begun and students are working hard to prepare music for the winter concert. Fourth grade students are coming to lessons full of excitement and eagerness to learn their new instrument and I am inspired by their enthusiasm.

As the hustle and bustle of the school year continues, it becomes very easy for students to come to me with reasons why they do not have time to practice. My response to students is, "Instead of telling me why you can't, tell me two ways you can". I would like to propose a challenge to all families participating in the Charter Oak instrumental program to encourage your child to practice every day. Learning to play an instrument is like getting to know a friend: if you make a point to talk to that friend every day, even for five minutes, by the end of the year you will know a lot about that person. The discipline of practicing an instrument every day builds commitment, confidence, and independence. These three IB attitudes will help your child to continue to grow as a life-long learner.

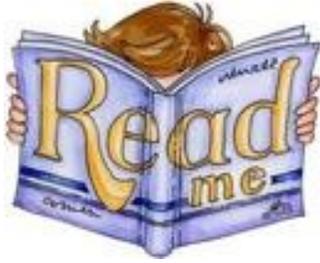
As your child continues their musical journey do not hesitate to contact Mr. Vita or me with any of your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Fay
Orchestra/Suzuki Director
Elizabeth_fay@whps.org

For the Love of Reading!



Derry Koralek, past editor for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) provides important and helpful information about the importance of reading with your child.

It's important to read aloud to children of all ages!

-Reading aloud presents books as sources of pleasant, valuable, and exciting experiences. Children who value books are motivated to read on their own.

-Reading aloud gives children background knowledge, which helps them make sense of what they see, hear, and read. The more adults read aloud to children, the larger their vocabularies will grow and the more they will know about the world and their place in it.

-Reading aloud lets parents and teachers be role models for reading. When children see adults excited about reading, they will catch their enthusiasm.

-Reading aloud can introduce books and types of literature—poetry, short stories, biographies—children might not discover on their own.

-Reading aloud introduces the language of books, which differs from language heard in daily conversations, on television, and in movies. Book language is more descriptive and uses more formal grammatical structures.

-Reading aloud lets children use their imaginations to explore people, places, times, and events beyond their own experiences.

Talk about what you are reading—before, during, and after a read-aloud session.

According to the IRA/NAEYC position statement (1998), “It is the talk that surrounds the storybook reading that gives it power, helping children to bridge what is in the story and their own lives.” Use the text

to discuss real-life experiences and issues. Stories and books can be springboards to meaningful discussions about many different topics.

-Make the book come alive. Vary your expressions and tone of voice to fit the plot. Use a different voice for each character. Pause when appropriate to create suspense.

-Read for as long as children can pay attention. Gradually read for longer periods of time as their attention spans grow.

-Involve the listener in deciding what, when, and how long to read. Invite active participation during and after the reading.

-Follow up after reading a book. Offer materials for art projects and dramatics. Look for more books by the author or on the same topic. Plan an activity that builds on what you have read.

Most importantly, build the love of reading with your child!

Irene Garneau
Dept. Supervisor for Early Childhood Edu

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.



WEST HARTFORD YMCA SPORTS PROGRAMS

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN

Program runs from October 30th–December 16th
(no program from 11/20–11/25)

Program location: **St. Brigid St. Augustine Partnership School**
100 Mayflower Street, West Hartford

Fee: \$60 for a six-week session

**Financial assistance
available!**

Volleyball

Grades: 3-8
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 5:00-6:00pm (Grades 3-5)
6:00-7:00pm (Grades 6-8)

Sports of all Sorts

Ages: 2-5
Date: Saturdays
Time: 9:00-10:00am (2-3yrs)
10:00-11:00am (4-5yrs)

After School Indoor Soccer

Grades: K-3
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 3:40-4:30pm

Wiffle Ball

Grades: K-2
Date: Saturdays
Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Floor Hockey

Grades: 3-8
Date: Fridays
Time: 5:00-6:00pm (Grades 3-5)
6:00-7:00pm (Grades 6-8)

After School Basketball

Grades: K-5
Date: Fridays
Time: 3:40-4:30pm



Indoor Soccer

Grades: 3-8
Date: Saturdays
Time: 12:00-1:00pm (Grades 3-5)
1:00-2:00pm (Grades 6-8)

**Registration is
open online!**

Program location: **St. Thomas Seminary**
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield
Fee: \$85 for a six-week session

Youth Coed Basketball

PARENT & ME
Ages 2-3
Saturdays, 9:00-10:00am

BOUNCERS
Ages 5 & Kindergarten
Saturdays, 10:00-11:00am

ROOKIES
Ages 3-4
Saturdays, 9:00-10:00am

DRIBBLERS
Grades 1 & 2
Saturdays, 10:00-11:00am

Elite Clinics

Ages: 7-12
Date: Saturdays
Time: 11:30-1:30pm
Fee: \$30 per clinic

11/4- Ball Handling Clinic
11/11- Fundamentals of
Shooting Clinic
11/18- Scoring Clinic
11/25- All Skills Clinic
12/2- Skills Competition

Archery

Ages: 7 & up
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 5:00-5:45pm



Basketball Training

Dates: Per Diem
Time: 1 hour
Price: \$50 per child
Group rate: \$10 per additional child
Must schedule 3 days in advance!



Swim Lessons

Classes run on Friday evenings & Saturday mornings!

Fees: Water Discovery —\$84
(Ages 6mo-3 years)
Preschool Swim —\$84
(Ages 3-5)
Youth Swim —\$89
(Ages 6-10)

Location: Mandell JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave.,
West Hartford



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

**Board of Education
CANDIDATE FORUM**

**Monday, October 23
7:00 - 8:00pm**

**Charter Oak International Academy
425 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford
(Use parking entrance on Flatbush Avenue)**

Free Admission

**Ask policymakers questions about
school issues that matter the most to you.**

Spanish Language Translation Available

Questions? 860.478.5760 or whctv5@gmail.com