

*"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. XVIII.

June 19, 2018

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear Charter Oak Families,

Before we depart for our vacation I would like to wish all of you a restful, joyful, and happy summer with your loved ones. Thank you for being such wonderful partners throughout the year and thank you for the incredible support you provide to all of us. We are blessed to work with your children!

It's also time to say goodbye to a number of extraordinary individuals who have been part of the Charter Oak community. We say goodbye to our beloved Chuck Hummel who is retiring but planning to come back for next year's Egg Drop. Also retiring are John Foster, in fourth grade, who will be enjoying his grandchildren and his long walks in the woods very soon, and Robin Drago, from the Family Resource Center, who will enjoy family time with her children and six grandchildren.

Other colleagues are staying in town with assignments in different schools. Barbara Scully, in the office, will be taking the lead secretary position at Wolcott where she is bringing her skills and warmth. Cristina Perriello, in 5th grade, will be returning to Duffy to teach first grade where she will continue changing lives with her knowledge and love for education and children. Jingjing Wu, currently on maternity leave, will be joining Bristow Middle School as their full-time Chinese teacher where she will continue to inspire kids. Our nurse, Eileen McCormick, will be working with all schools around town where she will continue to take good care of all, and Giovanna Roche, who has been teaching Vocal Music primarily to our pre-kindergarteners, will be moving down to Florida where new professional opportunities for both she and her husband are waiting. To all of them, our deepest gratitude and best wishes. We will miss them terribly! Finally, we will start the year with a maternity leave. Gina Navarra, in fourth grade, will stay home with her twins for a while and plans to return to Charter Oak later in the year.

We are already making great progress in the process of replacing our beloved colleagues with outstanding professionals. Ms. Tamara Acosta will be our new Social Worker. Tamara comes to us from Hartford and her experience includes work at the Wheeler Clinic, the Behavioral Health Network in Massachusetts, the Village for Families and Children, and as the Hartford Board of Ed. School and Community Site Coordinator. Ms. Hua Zhou will continue with us as our Chinese teacher, and Ms. Niki Livingston will join our office as clerk. Niki comes from Sedgwick Middle School where she has been an assistant working in the front office. Nicki is also a coach for the Special Olympics West Hartford Swim Team.

As you know, we are also welcoming Kristi Burton to Charter Oak as our new third grade teacher. Many of you had the chance to meet Kristi at the recent Family Picnic. As you may know, Ms. Burton comes from Duffy where she is currently teaching third grade.

I will keep you informed about new hiring and please don't hesitate to stop by in July or August if you would like to chat or visit. I love to see our families during summer time!

Sincerely,

Juan Melián  
Principal



The last day of school is  
**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**  
**2:00 Dismissal**

### Medication Pick-Up



State regulations require that all unused medication be picked up by parents/guardians by the last day of school. Any medication not picked up will be discarded after the last day of school. Please note that medication authorizations signed by a parent/guardian and a health care provider must be renewed each school year.

If you have any questions, please contact me at  
 (860) 929-5560.

Have a wonderful summer!

Eileen McCormick, RN



**Attention All Families of  
 5th Grade Students:**



### **Middle School Physical Exam and Immunization Requirements**

All children attending school in West Hartford must be in compliance with the State of Connecticut physical examination and immunization laws.

During 6th grade, make sure your child has the following:

- A physical exam done **AFTER** July 1, 2017
- These immunizations: Varicella #2, Tdap, and Menactra

Your child's primary care provider will need to complete the Blue State of Connecticut health assessment form and provide an updated immunization record. Once obtained, send to your middle school nurse. Thank you.

Kathy Condon RN  
 Melissa Hawkins RN  
 King Philip Middle School  
 860-929-5260

LisaMarie Vitelli RN  
 Melissa Wren RN  
 Sedgwick Middle School  
 860-929-5310

Julie Schwartz RN  
 Bristow Middle School  
 860-929-5210

## CURRICULUM MATTERS



Summer is finally here! It's time to take a break from school, and explore our world in other ways. Please enjoy the list of summer activities attached to this Globe. These are low-key, local and affordable ways for families to stay busy throughout the summer.

Charter Oak students will also be staying connected with their academic learning through the West Hartford Public Library's summer reading program. Parents can access and download reading lists of just-right books from the Library's website ([www.westhartfordlibrary.org](http://www.westhartfordlibrary.org).) Children can create a Wandoo reading log, meet their target number of books, and get a ticket to a reading celebration! See the site above for dates of celebrations.

Charter Oak children will keep their math skills strong by taking part in the Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge. This important program is free and available to students who have just completed grades 1 through 8. Students should have brought home information about this program, as well as a summer math log to keep track of their progress. Please register and take part in this amazing opportunity.

Families often enjoy a total break from a schedule over the summer. After this well-deserved break, setting a predictable routine will help children know what their day will look like. This predictability helps children regulate their emotions. They will be excited by the activities they engage in throughout the summer, but know that they will have "down-time" to relax, as well. This will help them stay calm. Children benefit from time to settle down and practice some academic skills, as well. The programs listed above will help, along with these ideas:

- Follow up family activities with inquiry. What did you see or find that you had questions about? Explore more deeply. What craft did you see? Use kid-friendly materials and give it a try.
- Engage in real problem-solving. For example: Figure out the details of the day-trip you will take tomorrow (read a map, chart expenses, plan a picnic lunch). By involving your child in thinking through everyday activities, they

will be thinking mathematically, and learning how to apply the math they have learned.

- Schedule some time each day when everyone engages in quiet activities. Read together, complete the Commissioner's Math Challenge or write letters of thank-you notes. Play games, do picture puzzles, create some art, or start a nature journal.

These additional steps may help your child reconnect with school in August.

- Start working bedtime back to school-year bedtime, moving back 10 minutes per night.
- About a week before school starts, get up and get going on the school schedule.
- If there is a new bus stop, walk the route to and from the stop. If your child is walking to school, walk this route and practice safety precautions. Please note: Your child should plan to walk the same route to and from school every day so you know where they are at all times.
- Get school supplies and set up a welcoming study area at home.
- If your child will be bringing lunch to school, start developing a list of meal ideas and have them learn how to help with preparing and packing a lunch.

I wish you all a wonderful, refreshing summer!

Kate Jerram  
Curriculum Specialist

**TALENT SHOW****Talent Show**

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

9:00 - 11:30

Outside

Please bring a chair or blanket and plan on sharing a great morning with many talented children.

Epic! is running an amazing promotion that families may want to take advantage of- \$3 for a 3 month subscription. This would be a great way for kids to do some reading over the summer.

For more information see: <https://www.getepic.com/summer-of-reading>

Epic! is an online library of tens of thousands of books. Fiction and Non-fiction, all levels of readers and non-readers.

**MOVING OR  
CHANGING  
SCHOOLS?**



If you have moved or are planning on moving to another address, it is necessary to contact The Residency Office and inform them of your new address. You may reach them by calling (860) 561-6627 or (860) 561-6637. You may also stop by their office at the Town Hall.

**ENJOY**

**YOUR**

**SUMMER**



**School re-opens on**

**Wednesday, August 29, 2018**

**8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

# West Hartford Cultural Council

## Campaign for the Arts

June 13, 2018

Dear Charter Oak International Academy Community,

The Cultural Council wishes to thank the Charter Oak International Academy community for its unyielding support of our mission to enrich and enhance our students' education by programming inspiring cultural experiences annually in the elementary schools. We know this was a time of year full of requests for support of other important and exciting end-of-year programs and initiatives, yet the Charter Oak International Academy community remained a steadfast champion of the Cultural Council's fundraising efforts at an unparalleled pace.

As parent and teacher representatives on The West Hartford Cultural Council, we want to congratulate the entire Charter Oak Family for raising over \$1,500.00!! Whether you contributed money, expressed appreciation for the cause, or talked with your child about what was learned from this year's performance, all efforts are greatly appreciated and demonstrate the commitment our community has to the arts and recognizing the important role it plays in our children's education.

This year we were so excited to see Step Afrika!, the first professional dance company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Through a unique style of dance, their interactive performance educated us all about the importance of teamwork, working hard in school, and embracing what makes people from other cultures special.



**Thank you** to all parents/caretakers, teachers and staff at Charter Oak International Academy, as well as the generosity of Charter Oak's PTO, Farmington Avenue Pizza, and Mr. Horowitz for your continued efforts to enhance and enrich our children's cultural education.

Below are the winners of the Cultural Council participation awards:

**1st Place:** Mrs. Behlman's 4th grade class! (Pizza party donated by Farmington Avenue Pizza)

**2nd place:** Mrs. Hawkins' 2nd grade class! (Ice cream social donated by Charter Oak's PTO)

**3rd place:** Ms Navarra's 4<sup>th</sup> grade! (Extra P.E. time donated by Mr. Horowitz)

Thank you again and enjoy the rest of the school year!

Sincerely,

Manuela Canales

Cultural Council Parent Representative

Penelope Drown

Cultural Council Teacher Representative

Juan Melian

Principal



## Places to Visit While Sharing Experiences with Children



As children enjoy their summer, there are terrific ways to keep them engaged in learning – building background knowledge that will support their understanding of the world and support their language and reading comprehension, and opportunities to apply math, reading, science, social studies skills and knowledge in real-world settings. And - Children learn best when they are having fun!

Some suggested destinations for nature experiences (besides digging and planting in your own back yard):

- \*CT State and West Hartford parks and forests
- Westmoor Park – West Hartford (farm animals, gardens, hiking trails)
- Spicebush Swamp – West Hartford (pond and river)
- Dinosaur State Park – Rocky Hill (dinosaur tracks, hiking trails, films and exhibits)
- The Dinosaur Place – Montville (life-size dinosaur models set along an outdoor trail, climbing web, maze, playground and water splash area, opportunities to dig for dino bones, gold and gems!)
- Talcott Mountain State Park (hiking, Heublein Tower, view of western Connecticut)
- \*Roaring Brook Nature Center – Canton (live animals, rehabilitation program, displays, trails)
- The Audubon Society – Glastonbury (live animals, hands-on activities, trails and a pond)
- \*The Beardsley Zoo – Bridgeport
- \*The Zoo in Forest Park – Springfield
- Wickham Park – Manchester (playground, bee-keeping exhibit, brand new wetlands trail, aviary)
- CT Audubon Center – Glastonbury (Nature trails, pond-life, exhibits and hands-on experiences)
- The Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT (Rehab sanctuary and touch tank, nature walks)
- Auerfarm - Bloomfield (farm animals, outdoor natural playground)
- 

Other museums that offer to build a deeper understanding through play and hands-on activities with science and social studies:

- \*The Children's Museum – West Hartford (hands on science, composting, butterfly garden, and new exhibits – invasive species and dinosaurs!)
- \*Imagine Nation - Bristol
- \*The Lutz Museum – Manchester (live animals, hands on fun for younger children)
- Connecticut Science Museum – Hartford (hands on science)
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children – Norwalk
- \*EverWonder Children's Museum - Newtown
- \*The Children's Museum at Holyoke – Holyoke, MA

Additional trips will allow your family to explore our history through a museum experience. Some of these trips are more suitable for children in grades 2 and up.

- \*Connecticut Trolley Museum – East Windsor
- \*Basketball Hall of Fame - Springfield
- \*CT Historical Society - Hartford (museum and summer adventure programs offered)
- \*Old State House - Hartford
- \*Mystic Aquarium – Mystic (aquatic animals, titanic exhibit, hands-on and shows)
- Old Mystic Seaport – Mystic (hands-on exhibits, period buildings and staff dress, ships)
- \*New Britain Museum of American Art – New Britain (children’s area for hands on experiences)
- \*Norman Rockwell Museum – Stockbridge, MA
- \*New England Air Museum – Windsor Locks (historical airplanes, “open cockpit” days during which visitors may enter planes)
- \*Noah Webster House – West Hartford (hands on activities about colonial times)
- Laurel Forge – Pomfret (Observe the art of blacksmithing, using modern and colonial-era techniques)
- \*Old Sturbridge Village – Sturbridge, MA (Depiction of village life in colonial times – costumed historians, antique buildings, water-powered mill and working farm)
- \*Wadsworth Athenaeum – Hartford (variety of art for viewing)
- \*Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art – Amherst, MA
- \*The Peabody Museum of Natural History – New Haven
- Connecticut River Museum – Essex (Explore the CT River’s heritage, exhibits and self-guided exploration; river cruises available, park area)
- Nautilus and Submarine museum – Groton
- \*CT Trolley Museum – East Windsor
- The Springfield Museums (Art, Science, and History museums and the Dr. Seuss memorial garden)
- \*Discovery Museum and Planetarium – Bridgeport

\* **The [West Hartford Public Library](#) has a pass for discounts that may be reserved for the day.**

Be sure to check out the [West Hartford Summer Reading Challenge](#). Details are at the [West Hartford Libraries](#) site above. Read and log your reading online. Meet your goal, and get a ticket to a reading celebration:

- **Noah Webster Library: Tuesday, August 21, 2:00 pm or Thursday, August 23, 6:00 pm**
  - **Bishops Corner Library: Tuesday, August 21, 6:00 pm**
  - **Faxon Library: Wednesday August 22, 6:00 pm or Saturday August 25, 1:00 pm**

*See the following page for tips on enjoying these trips and getting the most from your adventures.*

I wish you a restful and joy-filled summer!

Kate Jerram,  
Curriculum Specialist



## More Summer Tips for Sharing Experiences with Children



- Provide your child with books to read. Help him select books on topics he is interested in and on his reading level. A way to select a book on your child's reading level is to have him choose a page in the book (not the first one) and read it. If he struggles with five or more of the words, then the book is too hard for independent, pleasure reading.
- Read a book that is above your child's reading level to him, and then discuss the story together.
- Get your child her own library card. Take your child to the library often to browse for books and enjoy special activities. Look for the **Little Free Libraries** around town. There is one at Fernridge Park. Take a book and leave a book for someone else to enjoy.
- If you are planning a vacation this summer, write to the visitors' bureau of places you will be visiting and ask for information on the area and any special attractions, check out books from the library to get background information.
- Hang a map of Connecticut and mark the places you will be visiting. Mark the route, and talk about the major roadways that you will travel along the way. This will help your children build an awareness of direction, distance, and location of geographic landmarks.
- As you visit parks and museums, collect the maps you are given:
  - Use these maps to navigate during your visit, and then after the visit to talk about what you saw.
  - Hang the maps on a wall or add them to the summer journal your child is creating.
  - Return to the maps for "Remember when ...?" conversations.
  - Talk about the map design - what symbols are used - how do the symbols help you?
- Play board games and complete picture puzzles (Scrabble Jr., Memory, Sorry!, Apples to Apples Jr., Checkers, Chess, BINGO, I Spy, Pay Day, Monopoly, Rummy-O, Mancala, Parcheesi, Mastermind, Blokus, Dominoes, and a Charter Oak favorite – Clumsy Thief!)
- Spend time with math through: Measuring (Bring out the measuring cups and spoons. Add a little food coloring to water, and measure away!); Money (Play with coins to help practice identifying and counting money); Time (Make your schedule for the day, and use the clock to stay on track. For younger children, schedule activities to start on the hour or half hour. For older children, schedule activities to start on fifteen minute, ten or five minute intervals.)
- Stay Connected – Visit the Library website [Children's Resources](#) to find out what programs are available. Select "Parent/Family Web Resources" for great reading opportunities and other activities for kids!
- The West Hartford Public Library has a pass to many museums as well as to Connecticut State Parks through the **Museum Pass Program**, sponsored by the Friends of the West Hartford Library. Visit the West Hartford Public Library website "[Museum Passes](#)" or **Call (860) 561-6980** for more information. Please plan ahead, as passes are limited and may need to be reserved using your library card.

**See museums above, marked with an \* indicating pass available.**