

Dear Charter Oak Families:

We are fast approaching our last weeks of the school year and in our school the arrival of May marks a very important time for our 5th graders and our school as a whole. As you probably know, 5th grade students end the year, and their Charter Oak journey, with *Exhibition, a chance for our children to apply what they have learned and demonstrate who they have become in our school environment as an International School.*

I often say that the Exhibition topic selection is an indication of the impact the International Baccalaureate Program has had on our students and this year, again, our 5th graders are demonstrating how globally minded they are and how aware they are of critical topics in our society. This year, our students are researching on Roots of Violence, Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder, Diabetes, What is Beauty, Student Activism, Hidden Ingredients, Student Government, Native American Human and Civil Rights and Climate Change.

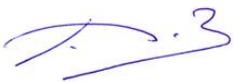
My special gratitude goes to all our 5th graders for their hard work and to Mrs. Sanderson, our IB Coordinator, whose outstanding leadership makes the Exhibition process possible. She leads a team of staff members that includes our 5th grade teachers, Mrs. Lizon, Ms. Roberts, and Mrs. Perriello, our Information and Communication Technology Teacher, Ms. Coyne, our Media Specialist, Mrs. Cochrane, our upper grade paraprofessionals, Mrs. Paridy and Ms. Willis and many more. In reality, Exhibition involves all of us at Charter Oak, so thank you all for your contributions and support.

Please make sure you mark Exhibition Night on your calendars. It will be on Thursday June 12th at 6:30. I hope to see many of you at this event which explains so much of who we are as a school, as a community, and the type of learning experiences our students enjoy at Charter Oak International Academy.

We are also starting to prepare for next year, forming groups at each grade level, placing students with their new teachers, and interviewing new staff who will join our Charter Oak family in the next school year. One of them is the new third grade teacher who will join Ms. Giammatteo, Mrs. Brown and Ms. Florence. I am thrilled to announce to our Charter Oak community that Ms. Kristi Burton will be our new third grade teacher.

Ms. Burton currently teaches the same grade level at Duffy Elementary School where she is admired and beloved. Ms. Burton started her teaching career in 2001. In her communication to the Duffy community, Ms. Burton wrote that "It was time for me to shine my light elsewhere, to reach other children and families...never in my wildest dreams did I think I would receive the opportunity to teach at the school I attended as an elementary student. I am very excited for the next part of my teaching career." Please join me in welcoming Ms. Burton back home. Ms. Burton is planning to attend our school picnic on June 1st so you will have a chance to meet her.

Sincerely,

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

Juan Melián
Principal

