

*"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. VII.

December 8, 2016

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear Charter Oak Families,

Every year our schools receive data regarding home languages spoken in our schools. And every year this information makes me very proud to be part of a community that celebrates diversity in the way West Hartford does. In a district of approximately 10,000 students, about 2,000 of them live in a home with a home language other than English. This year there are 67 different languages represented in the West Hartford School system and the five largest groups are Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Portuguese and Nepali.

In our school the number of students in a home with a dominant language other than English is 121. Our three top groups are Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese. But our school is also home to students with families who speak Mandarin, Nepali, Arabic, Russian, Punjabi, Polish, Gujarati, Hindi, German, Telugu, Japanese, Turkish, Amharic, Lao, Filipino, Dari, and Persian. There is so much to celebrate and so much to be proud of a school and a district that is home to people from literally all over the world!

Yes, we start this holiday season with plenty to recognize, celebrate, and be thankful for. For that reason I would like to invite you to follow online our school assembly this Friday, December 16th, at which we will have our formal Dedication of the Building Ceremony. All students will gather in the auditorium and the courtyard so we can express gratitude for our new home to those who made it possible. Our PTO Board and people who served on the building committee will represent families at the event, but anyone who wishes to watch can do so via live streaming. The ceremony will start at 9:00 a.m. in the following link in our webpage to follow the event live: <http://charteroak.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1483>.

These final weeks of the year we also need to give special attention to food. Please remember that all classrooms are peanut/nut free. Any food sent in for your child's snack or for a teacher-approved classroom celebration or learning activity MUST be peanut/nut free. In addition to this, and in the interest of providing a healthy environment for our children (as our Elementary Handbook states) we are encouraging only healthy choices in the foods and beverages that children consume while in school. If you are sending in food for your child's snack, lunch or special occasion, please keep this policy in mind and check with your child's teacher, our nurse, or any of us to determine appropriate options. Also, the weather is already starting to get cold. Make sure that your children are appropriately dressed to 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.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your families and loved ones and a restful vacation!

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

Juan Melián  
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak,

Cada año nuestra escuela recibe datos sobre las lenguas que se hablan en los hogares de West Hartford y cada año esta información me hace sentir muy orgulloso de ser parte de una comunidad que celebra su diversidad de la manera que lo hace West Hartford.

En un distrito con aproximadamente 10,000 estudiantes, cerca de 2,000 viven en un hogar con una lengua diferente al inglés. Este año hay 67 lenguas diferentes representadas en el sistema escolar de West Hartford y los grupos más numerosos son el español, el vietnamita, el mandarín, el portugués y el nepalí. En nuestra escuela el número de estudiantes en un hogar con una lengua dominante que no sea el inglés es de 121. Nuestras tres lenguas más numerosas son el español, el portugués y el vietnamita, pero nuestra escuela es también el hogar de familias que hablan mandarín, nepalí, árabe, ruso, punjabi, polaco, gujarati, hindú, alemán, telugu, japonés, turco, amárico, filipino, lao, dari y persa. Hay tanto que celebrar y tanto de lo que estar orgullosos en una escuela y en un distrito que acoge a estudiantes que vienen, literalmente, de todo el planeta.

Sí, empezamos estas fiestas con mucho que celebrar, reconocer y agradecer. Por esta razón, me gustaría invitarles a que siguieran online nuestra asamblea escolar del 16 de diciembre en la que tendremos la Ceremonia de Dedicación del Nuevo Edificio. Todos los estudiantes se reunirán en el auditorio y el patio interior de la escuela para expresar nuestra gratitud por nuestro nuevo hogar a aquellos que lo hicieron posible. Miembros del PTO y participantes del comité de padres para el nuevo edificio representarán a todas nuestras familias en este evento, pero todos los que lo deseen podrán verlo a través de streaming. La ceremonia empezará a las 9 de la mañana y podrá conectarse en el siguiente enlace:

<http://charteroak.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1483>.

En estas semanas finales del año también debemos prestar atención a la comida. Por favor, recuerde que todas las clases están libres de frutos secos. Cualquier comida que se envíe para su hijo como snack o para una celebración aprobada por los maestros debe no contener frutos secos o derivados. Además, y para asegurarnos de un ambiente saludable les recomendamos que sólo sean enviadas bebidas y comidas saludables. No dude en comunicar con la maestra de su hijo, la enfermera o cualquiera de nosotros si tiene alguna pregunta.

También el tiempo ya está frío. Asegúrese de que sus hijos se visten apropiadamente para el recreo fuera. Guantes, ropa de abrigo, gorras y botas son muy importantes y requeridas. Es también esencial que los estudiantes no sean dejados fuera de la escuela antes de que abran las puertas a las 8:20, con la excepción de aquellos que comen el desayuno en la escuela o que tienen una actividad previamente organizada y supervisada por personal de la escuela.

Mis más sinceros deseos de que tengan unas muy Felices Fiestas con sus familias y unas vacaciones en las que puedan descansar y disfrutar.

Juan Melián  
Principal

## Charter Oak Students Take Action

As an IB World School, a fundamental goal is to help students understand the process and implications of taking action. We encourage our children to make a difference in the world in a way that is meaningful to them, not because they are told to by teachers and parents. We want our students to develop and follow their own beliefs and interests, cultivating an action mindset, where they enthusiastically and confidently take action within the context of the choose/act/reflect cycle and apply their learning to real world issues. In order to do this, students must develop their ability to collaborate with others and to problem solve. Action can grow from student learning within and beyond their IB units and can relate to their knowledge, skills, or Learner Profile Attributes and Attitudes.

The Charter Oak Action Club, one of our after school Explorations, gives students the opportunity to research, plan & act on issues that matter to them. After learning about ways that kids can take action, students brainstormed ideas. They decided that providing activities for children who are in the hospital would be a good area to focus on. They were empathetic to the fact that long hospital stays could be boring for kids. Students also joined other schools in West Hartford and in the state to sponsor a pajama day to raise funds to support CCMC as well as raise awareness of and empathy for children who need to spend long periods of time in the hospital. To make these things happen, students have had to research, plan and problem solve. Charter Oak raised more than \$400 for CCMC on Friday (they will do an exact count at their next meeting) and will be making about 100 craft bags to send to CCMC. In addition, they are finalizing updated lists of compostable items that can be collected in classrooms and transported to our commercial composting barrel in the cafeteria. Let's keep encouraging and celebrating our students as they take action to make the world a better and more peaceful place!



**The IB Attitude of empathy, defined as “*imagining [oneself] in another’s situation in order to understand his or her reasoning and emotions, so as to be open-minded and reflective about the perspectives of others*” is particularly important to student action. By developing empathy, children are able to make deeper connections to others, leaving them better prepared to interact in our global community.**



**Students celebrate PJ Day**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Star Student Assembly  
Monday, December 19, 2016**

**PK - Gr. 1: 2:00 - 2:30**

**Gr. 2-5: 2:45 - 3:15**

### **Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Class of 2017:**

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of West Hartford children by expanding your parental toolbox to include leadership and advocacy skills? Then, we have a great opportunity for you. The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) trains, inspires and empowers all parents to become effective advocates for children. To learn more about this dynamic program which begins in January, please contact Sara Barczak at [sbarczak@bridgefamilycenter.org](mailto:sbarczak@bridgefamilycenter.org) or call Charter Oak's Family Resource Center at [860-929-5575](tel:860-929-5575). There is no cost to participate in this leadership training program.

### **Winter Concert**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

**9:30 a.m.**

**&**

**7:00 p.m.**



### **Magnet Applications**

Magnet applications for the 2017-2018 year at Charter Oak International Academy will be available in the Residency Office, at the Town Hall, in the Charter Oak main office, and on the West Hartford Public Schools website ([www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org)) beginning on January 12, 2017 and are due at the Residency Office, Room 154 at West Hartford Town Hall, by March 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017**

**NO SCHOOL**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b><u>Monday, 12/12</u></b>		
Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45	Instrumental Room
K. Field Trip - Dustin	8:50	B.J. Wholesale Club
Explorations	3:20	Various Rooms
Homework Center	3:20	Various Rooms
<b><u>Tuesday, 12/13</u></b>		
Winter Concert	9:30	Auditorium
Explorations	3:20	Various Rooms
Homework Center	3:20	Various Rooms
Winter Concert	7:00 pm	Auditorium
<b><u>Thursday, 12/15</u></b>		
Explorations	3:20	Various Rooms
Homework Center	3:20	Various Rooms
<b><u>Friday, 12/16</u></b>		
COIA Dedication	9:00	Auditorium
K. Field Trip	12:15	Playhouse on Park
<b><u>Monday, 12/19</u></b>		
STAR Assembly		
PK - Gr.1	2:00 - 2:30	Auditorium
Gr. 2 - 5	2:45 - 3:15	
Homework Center	3:20	Various Rooms

Dear Families:

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<http://charteroak.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1483>

Day: Friday, December 16, 2016  
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Thanks

Juan Melián  
Principal

**"Public Act 16-189"**

We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff.

In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit [www.whps.org/pa189](http://www.whps.org/pa189).

**LOST AND FOUND**

Our lost and found is now located underneath the staircase in the center hallway near the office. Please check for any missing items your child may have lost. Each Friday, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.



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

## News from the COIA music room



So much has happened since the beginning of school! The music room is bursting with energized inquirers and magical singing. To name a few highlights: Kindergarteners are exploring their voices and how to express themselves; first graders are beginning to write rhythm patterns; second grade students are independently writing three notes on the staff; third graders are using their inner hearing skills to decode melodic patterns using re and fourth and fifth grade students are preparing to learn new, more complex rhythms by noticing how the words and rhythms are connected. Each day in music class students are presented with questions that help them to expand their perspectives and encourage them to dig deeper into learning. As we begin to understand our connection to each other as musicians, how music helps us to express our ideas, and how music impacts our lives, students wonder how they can use music to take action to make the world a more peaceful place.

One way that students take action and share their work is through participation in the winter concert. Fourth and fifth grade singers have been meeting before school each Thursday to prepare peaceful winter sounds for our community. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am or 7pm for the COIA annual winter concert. If your child is in the chorus, there will be reminders sent home concerning what to wear and when to be here for each of the concerts.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr. Zych,  
Vocal Music Teacher

## WELCOME FROM THE LITERACY CENTER



### A New Year's Resolution That Will Stick!

Each year we say we'll start doing this, or stop doing that. But more often than not our big plans get dashed sometime in January. Here is one that will most likely make it through the 365 days and will improve your life and the life of your children as you instill a **LOVE TO READ**.

**L**ook for new books and authors that your child may enjoy.

**O**rganize an area dedicated to reading and writing tools.

**V**isit the library for story time and book recommendations.

**E**ncourage your child to talk about what he's read.

**T**alk to your child, and sprinkle interesting words into your conversation.

**O**ffer a variety of books to read.

**R**ead with your child every day.

**E**xpand your home library to include magazines and nonfiction.

**A**sk questions if you're concerned about your child's development.

**D**ecide to raise a reader!

Adapted from [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Marcie Redden  
Reading Specialist

## Promoting Peace in Weekly Lessons



The early primary grades at Charter Oak (K-2) have been busy understanding and promoting peace during our weekly Team Building lessons this year. We talked about how defining peace can be hard- but there are many different ways that we can take action to make our world and school a more peaceful place. Children have learned about three kinds of Peace that they can spread: Inner Peace, Peace in our Actions, and World Peace.

**Inner Peace:** Kids at Charter Oak are learning about various ways that we can recognize physical changes inside of ourselves ('inside clues'- heart beating fast, stomach turning, etc.) that signals we have a feeling. Kids are taught that having different feelings (even uncomfortable ones like anger and sadness) is healthy- but what we do with our feelings matters. Kids have practiced various coping skills thus far such as deep breathing and focusing on each breath.

**Peace in Our Actions:** Children have learned the definition of empathy (feeling what someone else is feeling), and have talked about various ways that they can use empathy to care for each other in our school. Children have been challenged to take the perspectives of others, reflect on their actions, and consider how their behavior impacts those around them. We have talked in depth about how our choices matter- and that we can spread kindness each day through our actions.

**World Peace:** Even though they are still kids, Charter Oak students have learned that they can make their world a better place through kind actions, and by taking care of the world around them. Small acts like picking up trash, composting, and conserving energy goes a long way in helping make our world a more peaceful place.

Please take a moment to discuss with your child how they are promoting peace each and every day- you may be surprised at all the wonderful things they are doing to help others!

Jeff Duquette  
Psychologist

### **REMINDER**

#### **HOLIDAY RECESS**

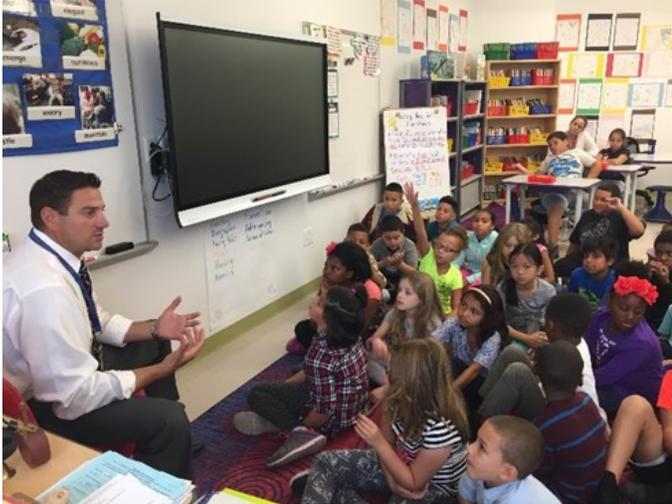
**NO SCHOOL**

**December 26, 2016 - January 2, 2017**

#### **School Reopens**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

## Calling all Entrepreneurs!



In our “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” unit, third graders studied the various aspects of creating their own businesses. They delved into aspects of economics including supply and demand, good and services, money, and advertising. They received real-world knowledge and inspiration from our own community business owners such as published author Rick Labadia, Kimberly Boutique owner Kim Moster, Construction Solutions Group owner Chris Cykley, and Tate Norden, owner of Iron and Grain food truck.

Students took this knowledge and created their own businesses plans including their own business names, slogans and logos. Ms. Florence’s class will take action by running the school store this year. Mrs. Brown’s class started a recycled art business called “Arty Smarty.” In Ms. Giammatteo’s class, the students created their own businesses included bakeries, sport shops, a trampoline park, salons and much more.



Fondly,  
The 3rd Grade Team:

- \*Ms. Florence
- \*Mrs. Brown
- \*Ms. Giammatteo

## ESOL News



### ESOL Students of the Month

November's ESOL Student of the Month was Sejin S. Sejin is a first-grade student in Mrs. Collin's class. He was selected because he is very creative and uses his new English to be a good communicator. December's ESOL Student of the Month is Angel N. He is a third-grade student in Ms. Florence's class and was selected because he is responsible and is always conscientious with his work.

### In My Own Words

By Sejin S.

Students in grade one have been working on describing their favorite parts of stories including an event in the story to support their answers. The following is a description of Sejin's favorite part of the story, *Mice and Beans*.



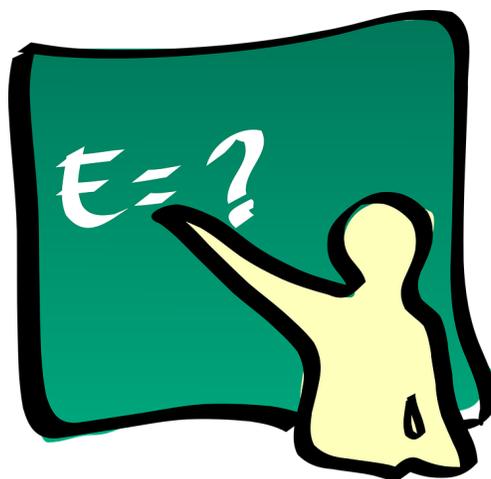
## In My Own Words

By Angel N.

Students in third grade just finished a unit on character traits and everyday heroes. The following is an example of how Angel was an everyday hero when he helped a friend with math.

### **The Time I Was an Everyday Hero: Trouble with Math**

Last week, after school, I planned to go to my friend, Felix's house. Felix did not understand his division homework. He said to me, "I don't get this math. Can you help me?" I responded, "Sure!" The homework was division word problems. First, we read the problems together. Next, I showed him how to use the calculator to do division. Then, I showed him how he could draw pictures to solve division problems. After I showed him the different ways to do division, he finally understood. He said, "Thank you so much for helping me." I said, "That's what friends are for!"



## Scenes From Family Academy

Good times and hands-on learning.

