

Dear Charter Oak Families:

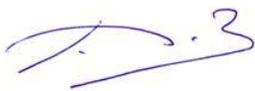
We are fast approaching our last four weeks of the school year engaged in many school events and meaningful work for our students. As an IB school, the arrival of May marks a very important time for our 5th graders. As you probably know, 5th grade students end the year with *Exhibition*, a true opportunity for our children to apply what they have learned and demonstrate who they have become in our school environment as an International School.

If the topic selection is any indication of the impact the International Baccalaureate Program has had on our students I believe it is safe to say that it has been remarkable. Our 5th graders are working on issues that demonstrate how internationally minded they are and how aware they are of their surrounding world. Our students are researching on LGBTQ issues, the topic of Refugees, the impact of technology on jobs under the topic of Automation, Siblings, Homeschooling, and Literacy for All.

Exhibition is a true celebration of our students, our school, and our approach to teaching and learning. The impact goes well beyond our fifth graders, and to some extent, it involves everybody at Charter Oak. My special gratitude to our mentors and the many experts visiting our school to talk to our IB learners. Mentors play a huge role in this process, celebrating our students, asking them about their topics, encouraging them through the process and sharing ideas, resources and contacts with the children.

The list of experts is too large to include everybody here but just to give you a few examples, the Literacy group interviewed a literacy volunteer and a grandmother who just learned to read; the Homeschooling group is meeting with a family who has chosen this model and are planning to meet with our Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; the Siblings group created a school-wide survey to be administered here at Charter Oak; the Automation team visited a Coca Cola plant in the area; the Refugees group interviewed our Board of Education Chairman and UConn professor. Finally, the LGBTQ group interviewed a transgender student from Conard.

Please make sure you mark Exhibition Night in your calendars. It will be on Monday 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.



Juan Melián  
Principal