

*"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 6, 2016

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear COIA Families:

In a few weeks our 5th grade students will be visiting the United Nations (UN) in New York City as part of a grant received from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools. During the trip, they will learn about this essential international organization and the role it plays in peacekeeping. The students will also have the chance to see the General Assembly Hall and other chambers where the United Nations committees meet regularly.

Peace is a central theme in our school this year and we take advantage of every opportunity we have to talk and discuss it with our students at Charter Oak. We hope that the visit to the UN becomes a tradition in our school as we continue to work to make sure that our students are internationally minded and know and understand key issues in the complex and fascinating world we live.

Our dialogue on peace, sustainability and community is a constant at Charter Oak. We are proud of our ongoing conversations with our students on these topics at every chance we have to come together and reflect. Just to mention a few this month: The Community Open House that opened the school to the community to show how we use our new space; the Ice-cream Social that brought together our families and staff on a beautiful September evening; our Star Assemblies, where we recognize students for their commitment to learning and exemplary citizenship.

We are rapidly heading to the holiday season and it is important to remind each other of the importance of healthy eating and food practices. As you know, West Hartford Public Schools instituted a practice of peanut/nut free classrooms. Any food sent in for your child's snack or for a teacher-approved classroom celebration or learning activity must be peanut/nut free. But there are other food allergies, such as dairy and egg that are not as easily avoided. As such, and in the interest of providing a healthy environment for our children, non-food items are used for reward or celebration. Please check with your child's teacher to determine appropriate options, particularly in classrooms where highly allergic reactions are to be considered.

If you choose to recognize your child's birthday in school, please arrange a time that works for his or her classroom teacher. Your child's teacher will share with you suggestions for how to recognize a birthday. Parents must communicate with classroom teachers **in advance** if they want their child's birthday to be recognized in school.

Finally, thank you very much for your patience regarding the parking situation. We truly appreciate your cooperation. We are expecting our parking to be complete at the beginning of November. Families who need to park for drop off and pick up please use the designated areas along Oakwood and Sidney Avenues. There is also parking available at the Home Depot and on the grass lot on Price Blvd. Please avoid parking in the private driveways near school.

My best wishes to all for a wonderful fall and thank you for your partnership and for making Charter Oak such a wonderful place for our students.

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

Juan Melán
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak:

En unas pocas semanas nuestros estudiantes de grado 5 visitarán las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York, como parte de una beca recibida de la Fundación para las Escuelas de West Hartford. Durante el viaje, aprenderán sobre esta importante organización internacional y el papel que juega en el mantenimiento de la paz. Los estudiantes también tendrán una oportunidad de ver el hall de la Asamblea General y otras cámaras donde se reúnen diferentes comités de las Naciones Unidas.

La paz es un tema central en nuestra escuela este año y cada ocasión que tenemos la aprovechamos para hablar de ella con nuestros estudiantes en Charter Oak. Esperamos que la visita a la ONU se convierta en una tradición en la escuela conforme continuamos nuestro trabajo de ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a tener una visión internacional de la vida y a conocer y entender temas importantes de este mundo tan complejo y fascinante en el que vivimos.

Nuestro diálogo sobre la paz, sostenibilidad y comunidad son una constante en Charter Oak. Estamos orgullosos de nuestra conversación continuada con nuestros estudiantes en esta materia cada ocasión que se presenta. Algunos ejemplos de ello este mes son la Jornada de Puertas Abiertas en la que mostramos a nuestra comunidad el nuevo edificio y cómo lo usamos, la Noche de Helado, que nos permitió compartir una bella velada juntos, y la Asamblea de Estudiantes en la que reconocemos a nuestros estudiantes por sus esfuerzos académicos y su espíritu ciudadano.

Nos dirigimos rápidamente a la época de festividades y es importante recordarnos unos a otros sobre la necesidad de tener prácticas saludables en relación a la comida. Como ustedes saben, las escuelas de West Hartford no permiten los frutos secos en sus aulas. Cualquier tipo de comida enviada a la escuela como snack o para una actividad aprobada por el profesor debe no tener componentes de frutos secos. Tenga también presente que hay otras alergias derivadas de la leche o los huevos que nos son tan fácilmente evitables. Por lo tanto, y para ofrecer un ambiente seguro y saludable, no permitimos el uso de comida como premio o para celebraciones. Por favor hable con la profesora de su hijo para determinar opciones apropiadas, particularmente en clases donde alergias deben ser tenidas en cuenta.

Si usted decide que el cumpleaños de su hijo sea reconocido en la escuela, hágalo en colaboración con el profesor. Nuestros profesores les darán ideas y sugerencias de cómo reconocer el cumpleaños en la escuela.

Finalmente, muchas gracias por su paciencia con el estacionamiento. Realmente les agradezco su colaboración. Esperamos que el aparcamiento esté terminado al principio de noviembre. Aquellas familias que necesiten aparcar al dejar a los chicos por la mañana o al recogerlos deben usar las áreas designadas en Oakwood y Sidney. También hay aparcamiento en Home Depot disponible. Por favor, evite a toda costa aparcar en las entradas de nuestros vecinos.

Mis mejores deseos para todos ustedes para esta época otoñal y mi agradecimiento sincero por su colaboración para hacer de Charter Oak un lugar tan especial para todos nuestros estudiantes.

Juan Melián
Principal

SCENES FROM PEACE DAY



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>Friday, 10/14</u>		
Field Trip - K	8:45-1:00	Fair Weather Acres
<u>Monday, 10/17</u>		
Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45	Instrumental Room
Field Trip - PK	8:50-12:45	4-H Farm - Bloomfield
McMurray, O'Connell & Barron/Benner		
Field Trip - Gr. 4	9:00-2:00	Spice Bush/MDC
<u>Wednesday, 10/19</u>		
Band - Gr. 5	7:45	Instrumental Room
Town-Wide	2:45	Sterling Field
Cross Country Run (Grades 3-4-5)		
<u>Thursday, 10/20</u>		
Field Trip - Gr. 2	9:00-1:30	Roaring Brook
Farmer's Market	3:20-5:00	Flagpole
Literacy Night	6:00-7:30 pm	Various Rooms
<u>Friday, 10/21</u>		
Cultural Council Performance	9:15-10:00 PK - Gr. 2 10:15-11:00 Gr. 3 - 5	Auditorium
<u>Monday, 10/24</u>		
Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45	Instrumental Room
STAR Assembly: PK,K and Gr. 1	2:00-2:30	Auditorium
Gr. 2 - 5	2:45-3:15	Auditorium
<u>Wednesday, 10/26</u>		
Band - Gr. 5	7:45	Instrumental Room
Red Ribbon Day	All Day	
<u>Thursday, 10/27</u>		
Masquerade Ball	PK/K 6:00-7:00 pm	Gymnasium/Cafeteria
<u>Friday, 10/28</u>		
Masquerade Ball	Gr. 1-5 6:30-8:00 pm	Gymnasium/Cafeteria

First Grade News:



First grade is hard at work and really enjoying learning in the new building. When asked the first graders will tell you their favorite spaces are the new playground and the courtyard. We have spent the first few weeks exploring and testing out all the new playground equipment. The swings are a huge favorite as well as the monkey bars and the slide. The first graders also love ringing the bells near the slide.

The courtyard is another favorite spot. All four classes have spent time out there having snack, reading books and writing. The children love taking clipboards and writing outside. The wild flower garden has become home to many birds and some students are already doing some wondering about what kinds of birds they are. Some bird research is in our future.

Our new "orange" classrooms are also another hit. The students love all the new things and how bright the rooms are with all the natural light.

We are so excited to continue our learning and exploring our new spaces.

The First Grade Team:

Mrs. Collins

Mrs. Devor

Mrs. Hyland

Mrs. Roberts-Walstrom

Picture Retake Day

Friday, November 11, 2016





STAR STUDENTS



Congratulations to the following students who were Charter Oak International Academy STARS for the Month of September.

Brian B.	Andrew G.
Lucas B.	Lena L.
Amaia C.	Tyler L.
Charles C.	Devan M.
Emilia D.	Mia N.
Zoey D.	Valerie N.
Nghi D.	Brenden P.
Francesca G.	Kimberly P.
Addison G.	Robin R-S.
Samaria G.	Marianna T.
Nayla G-C.	Sama T.
Angel G.	Jayden V.
Ana Lara G. P.	



We would like to thank the many parents and staff members who volunteered their time and talents assembling and displaying the pinwheels for our Peace Day Celebration.

InView Test of Cognitive Skills

During the third week of October, all third graders will take the InView Test of Cognitive Skills. It is part of our town-wide testing program and the purpose of the test is to provide information on students' ability to think rather than on their achievement. The test takes approximately two hours and is completed in multiple sessions. Your assistance in assuring your child is well rested and present in school during this week will be helpful.

WELCOME FROM THE LITERACY CENTER

Family Literacy Night is just around the corner!



On **Thursday, October 20th from 6:00-7:30**, Charter Oak students and families are invited to visit reading stations throughout the school and take home a new, free book! Some of the activities will include karaoke in the technology teaching area, bouncing for words in the gymnasium, exploring reading apps in inquiry room, a poetry slam in the auditorium, puppet making in the kindergarten wing, as well as bingo games, minute to win it, and a scavenger hunt.

Our goal is to provide adults and children wonderful opportunities to gain excitement and enthusiasm for reading and to learn together. Family Literacy Night provides strategies that support learning from the classroom to the community to the digital frontier. We hope to construct hotspots for learning wherever you go and in everyday life because the excitement of learning that comes from curiosity and wonder is undeniable!

Come to Family Literacy Night on October 20th and be prepared to...

**Explore. Imagine. Laugh. Share.
Create. Learn. Smile. Grow.**

Marcie Redden
Reading Specialist

ELC Lottery Applications

The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 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, 2017, 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 November 30, 2016.

VACANT SEAT PROGRAM APPLICATION START DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016



The West Hartford Public Schools vacant seat program utilizes available space on school buses. This program allows students to ride buses, where space is available, who under the West Hartford Public Schools Transportation policy are not eligible for transportation. **No additional bus stops are added to the routes for this program.** Interested parents should contact the West Hartford Public Schools Transportation Office at (860) 561-6647 for additional information on or after October 3rd. **Requests are taken in this office by telephone on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00 am.**

What's Cooking at the FRC



Early Learning Playgroups are in full swing at the Family Resource Center. Children, ages newborn to four, accompanied by a parent or caregiver are welcome to join the fun on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. There are lots of toys to play with and we always work on an art project. We read and sing at Circle Time and then share snack together. Parent Educators Robin Drago and Kim Townsend are always available to answer questions and share resources. There's no charge to attend Early Learning Playgroups and all West Hartford residents are welcome.

Do you know someone who might like to learn English in a nurturing and relaxed class? The FRC, in partnership with West Hartford Adult Ed, offers **English for Families** on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Children ages 2 and older are welcome to attend with their parents. Just stop in and we can share the details.

The FRC is also home to **PEACE Place**, childcare before and after school for Charter Oak preschoolers. If your child attends pre-k at COIA and you need care stop in and chat with us or give us a call at [860-929-5575](tel:860-929-5575).

The first Friday of every month Mr. Melian holds a **Principal's Coffee** in the FRC from 8:40 to 9:30 AM. Please join us for a great discussion on Friday, November 4. Young children are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Come and visit us in Room 150/151. The coffee is delicious, hot and always brewing in the FRC.

Deborah Zipkin, Director

Red Ribbon Week

October 23 - 31, 2016



Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country, generally takes place the last full week in October.

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated

October 23 - 31, 2016

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America.

Perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

Charter Oak will celebrate Red Ribbon Day on Wednesday, October 26th, and students and staff are encouraged to wear red.

Our theme for Red Ribbon Week will be:

“Together we can make one world”

If you have any questions, please call Janet Fournier at 860-233-8506. Thank you for your support!

Veterans Day Ceremony



Please join us on **Friday, November 11, 2016** 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 to be recognized at our ceremony. Please contact Janet Fournier with their names and contact information.

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 11th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (860) 233-8506. Thank you for your support.

Janet Fournier

NEWS FROM INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Hello, and welcome to another wonderful year of instrumental music in our brand new building! This is my first year in West Hartford and I could not be more excited to get to work with such an outstanding music team and students eager to learn how to play their instruments. I graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a degree in Music Education and submerge myself in all things music. I marched a drum and bugle corps out of New London, CT called the “7th Regiment” for 6 years, I teach the award winning Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band and Winter Percussion during the Fall and Winter seasons, and I am part of a professional A Cappella group from the central CT area called “Fifth Floor”. On top of all of this, I am overjoyed every day that I get to come in and work with your children and develop their love for music!

4th Grade band students are just beginning their instrument instruction. They are developing basic skills such as learning how to care for their instrument, put it together, make a sound, and keep a steady beat. These are paramount for building muscle memory and future success. As we roll into October, these students will be beginning to learn songs such as “Hot Cross Buns” and “Mary Had A Little Lamb” while learning their letter names and basic music theory.

5th Grade band students are continuing their instrument instruction this year. They will be reading actual concert music and playing together in both the Winter and Spring concerts! They are refining their skills that they learned last year and are adding new vocabulary, music theory concepts, and playing more challenging music this year.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s instrumental band instruction, do not hesitate to contact me at michael_vita@whps.org.

Thank you and have a wonderful year!

Mr. Michael Vita
Band Director



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.

SAVE THE DATE

Town-wide Cross Country Run

Grades 3 through 5

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

2:45 - Sterling Field



Farmer’s Market

Thursday, October 20, 2016

3:20-5:00

Flagpole



Literacy Night

Thursday, October 20, 2016

6:00 - 7:30

Various Rooms



Star Assembly

Monday, October 24, 2016

PK, K and Gr. 1: 2:00 - 2:30

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

Auditorium



Masquerade Ball

Thursday, October 27, 2016

PK & K

6:00 –7:00 pm

Gymnasium/Cafeteria



Friday, October 28, 2016

Grades 1 - 5

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Gymnasium /Cafeteria

Celebrating our IB Students

As an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program school, our goal is to “develop well-rounded students with character who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex and unpredictable situations.” *The IB Primary Years Programme: Education for a Better World, 2012*

To do this, we instruct students in the attitudes, knowledge, skills and strategies they need in all content areas and throughout the day. We celebrate students as they embrace and embody the Learner Profile Attributes, becoming inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. Ultimately, we want students to take Action on their learning-- to put their learning to use to make the world a better and more peaceful place for themselves and others. Whether it is including another child in a recess game, coming home and teaching a brother or sister what they learned at school, or encouraging their family to recycle, there are many ways our children can take Action and demonstrate the IB elements. As our students grow as IB learners, we want to celebrate their progress and show them the endless ways we can exhibit the IB Learner Profile Attributes, Attitudes, and Approaches to Learning. Here are a few ways we celebrate our students as IB learners at Charter Oak:

STAR Student Assemblies (September 26, October 24, December 19, February 13, March 27, and May 22. Pre-k to Grade 1 Assembly 2:00-2:30; Grades 2-5 Assembly 2:45-3:15) Our fifth graders take the lead with these assemblies, planning the theme or focus and working together to highlight student learning and achievement around the building. At each assembly we celebrate students:

- **STAR students:** At each assembly, one student is selected by each classroom teacher (generally with input from classmates) as the STAR student for exhibiting one of the IB elements. Students are presented with a certificate and spirit stick as a description of why they received the award is read.
- **Academic and Citizenship Students:** Each class selects one student who has excelled in each of these areas. Student names are read and displayed. Teachers send a certificate home with the student.

- **IB at Home:** Students who have returned information about how they are displaying IB at Home receive an “I Live the Learner Profile” bracelet. (IB Inquirers are sent home for each unit for families to complete). Families can also post IB at home information on our Padlet.

- **Student Presenters:** Students share their learning or Action they have taken with the school.

- **Slideshow of the Month:** Students watch a slideshow that highlights the learning that has happened during that month.

Families are always welcome to attend the STAR assemblies; parents of STAR students and presenters are invited to attend.

Video Announcements: Most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These are available for family viewing through our school website.

- Students create and produce these informative and entertaining videos highlighting learning around the building, school events, IB elements, and Action.

Shout-Outs: Started in October.

- Available throughout the building, these half sheets list the IB Attitudes and Learner Profile attributes. Any community member--staff, student, or parent--can fill one out for any other community member and then on Fridays, one is selected for each grade level and one adult. The descriptions are read over the loudspeaker and everyone meets for a photo with Mr. Melián. At the end of the month, all shout outs are distributed to those who received them.

Central to being an IB school is constant reflection on and revision of our program and practices. We want to know--and celebrate--how your child is growing, learning and bringing their IB experience into their daily lives. We welcome your ideas and feedback on our celebrations; please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Kirsten Sanderson
IB Coordinator
kirsten_sanderson@whps.org
(860) 233-8506 x5563

Town Wide Cross Country Run



Wednesday
October 19, 2016



Dear Parents,

The annual **Town Wide Cross Country Run**, *sponsored by the West Hartford Elementary Physical Education Teachers*, will be held on **Wednesday, October 19, 2016** at **Charter Oak International Academy on Sterling Field**. The run will begin at approximately **2:45 p.m.** Please be there at least 15 minutes prior to the start time. A parent ***must*** accompany each child and ***be present*** during the event.

For the past several weeks during physical education class, students have been participating in a variety of activities that promote the development of cardiovascular endurance and fitness. as well as learning to pace when running longer distances.

This run is an opportunity for boys and girls in grades 3, 4, and 5 to participate in an organized, developmentally appropriate activity that reinforces much of their current learning in physical education. The course for fourth and fifth graders is one mile, and one half mile for third graders. Please encourage your child to be a part of this fun afternoon.

Your child was given a permission slip last week. Please fill out the permission slip and return to Mr. Horowitz or your classroom teacher.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Mr. Horowitz
Physical Education Teacher

**WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOWN WIDE CROSS COUNTRY RUN
*RUN FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA***

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016
TIME: Approximately 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: CHARTER OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
COURSE: 1 MILE COURSE FOR THE 4TH & 5TH GRADES
½ MILE COURSE FOR 3RD GRADE



TENTATIVE RACE ORDER:

5TH GRADE
4TH GRADE
3RD GRADE

GRADE 5 RUN WILL START AT APPROXIMATELY 2:45 p.m.
EACH RUN WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 15 MIN.

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT.

**INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THE PERMISSION FORM BELOW
AND RETURN IT TO THEIR PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER.**

TOWN WIDE CROSS COUNTRY RUN PERMISSION FORM

I GIVE MY CHILD, _____, PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWN WIDE CROSS COUNTRY RUN AT CHARTER OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016. (Rain date is Wednesday, November 2, 2016.)

GRADE _____ NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL _____

I UNDERSTAND THAT TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE EVENT IS A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS AN EXPECTATION THAT A PARENT BE PRESENT DURING THIS EVENT. **If someone other than you will be providing transportation for your child and assuming parental supervision during the event, please note that person's name:** _____.

Parent's Signature



FARMERS' MARKET

@ The Compass Rose

Thursday, 3:20pm-5:00pm, Oct 20, 2016

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