

Dear Charter Oak Families:

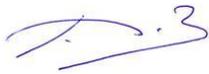
Every year, as we approach the holiday season, I think of the notion of finding comfort in traditions. They bring us together as a community and they give us a sense of safety and belonging.

At Charter Oak, December always brings our Family Academy Day and the Winter Concert, two events that highlight the spirit of collaboration in our community and our commitment to celebrate student learning together. Our deepest appreciation to the Family Resource Center and their wonderful team for making the Family Academy one of the most cherished and appreciated events in our rich annual calendar of activities. This year close to 300 people attended and experienced the joy of learning in the company of parents, siblings, grandparents and teachers. It was a beautiful Saturday morning that gave all of us the chance to be with each other without rushing, taking the time to learn something new, doing it with the people we love and care so much for. What a great gift for our students! Our children certainly appreciate what we do for them. But, even more, they appreciate what we do with them!

My appreciation also goes to our Music Department and our families for supporting our students as they prepare for this year's Winter Concert. The Winter Concert is another strong tradition in our school and a reflection of our district's and school's commitment to the arts and to a global and holistic education for our children. Please join us this coming Wednesday, December 13th in the school auditorium to celebrate the work of our children in the area of music. The concert will feature Suzuki violin, grade 5 orchestra, grade 5 band, and the fourth and fifth grade chorus.

Talking about traditions, allow me to remind all of you, in these final weeks of the year that we need to give special attention to our practices regarding food in school. 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.

Thank you for all you do in making Charter Oak such a great community. I wish all of you a joyful and restful holiday break, no matter what traditions you have at home, and a very, very happy and productive New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Melián' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Melián
Principal