

Dear Charter Oak Families:

I hope everybody has had a wonderful start of 2018! We are already one month into the new calendar year and life at Charter Oak continues to be as busy and exciting as it usually is.

Despite the natural interruptions due to weather and the holidays, we are moving along nicely, enjoying the immense privilege and responsibility of working with your children and enjoying every opportunity, we have to join with our families in celebrating our partnership.

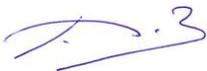
As you might be aware, this year one of our central goals is to continue to make Charter Oak a welcoming and safe school for all. Or as we have expressed, "Create a Peaceful Climate for Teaching and Learning."

Our staff and our parents, through the PTO, have been working on a Belief Statement that tries to capture this goal and our mission, as an IB school, to develop caring global citizens to create a better and more peaceful world. In this Belief Statement, that we will make available to all in the next few weeks, we state that our students "need a safe, caring, and peaceful school supported by strong partnerships among students, teachers, and families in order to learn and grow most effectively."

The Belief Statement is our starting point for a more comprehensive goal that will include the development of clear and consistent expectations for all, the study of ways of making students participants in a process to solve their problems, and ultimately, the development of a culture in our school that understands that social and behavioral learning are incremental in nature.

During our last PTO meeting, I invited our parents to read the book, *Raising Human Beings* by Ross Greene. Consider reading it yourself so we can all join in a dialogue in the near future that will help us all become better parents and educators.

Stay tuned!

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

Juan Melián
Principal