"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. 1 *September 13,2018* *Juan Melián*

Dear Charter Oak Families:

As we start the beginning of the third week of school I would like to welcome you all to a new and exciting school year with my best wishes to everyone. I am confident that each of your children has had a good start and are coming home sharing excitement, confidence, and joy.

In these initial days we have already started our partnership with you in many ways and we thank you for that. Your daily presence at school, in whatever form works for you, is critical to us. Whether it is a quick phone call sharing with a teacher something important to your child, or a question regarding homework at pickup time, or your presence at Curriculum Night, we truly appreciate your commitment of working together on the common goal of having a school that supports your children's education, well-being, and growth.

We start the year with renewed energy and important work ahead. As an International Baccalaureate School, Charter Oak embarks in 2018-19 on a Self-Study prior to the Re-Authorization Process by the IB organization due next year. This is a task that will allow us to continue calling ourselves an IB school and will require an extensive and deep reflection on who we are and if we are living the IB principles in our everyday practices to fulfill our mission as an International Baccalaureate School.

Our work will also continue to focus on Instruction. Charter Oak joins our district's efforts to assure that all children receive first class instruction in all areas that help our students achieve their goals and dreams. This year much of our attention will be in the area of Mathematics. I am sure that you have already noticed some changes in the way our students learn math these days. Your partnership in this area is very important to us so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, ideas or concerns.

Sustainability and Peace will stay as the two major global topics that will drive our dialogue with your children as we help them become more internationally minded and provide opportunities for taking action in our own community starting at school. The strong support and encouragement of our PTO and the work of the newly student-created Student Government, we will deepen our commitment of making Charter Oak a more sustainable place.

Our commitment to having a peaceful school shows every day but we also take every opportunity we have to celebrate the idea of peace and reflect on what it actually means to each of us. And our first opportunity of doing so is around the corner. Please join us on September 21st to celebrate Peace in our school at our traditional event by the flagpole. This year we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our teachers, students, and many parent volunteers are already working together to make the event, one of the most beloved in our school, a meaningful occasion for our children.

With the work of our wonderful staff and your critical partnership my hope is that your child truly has a great year and find opportunities to grow, lead and shine. We will be there for them! You can count on that!

Sincerely,

Juan Melián
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak:

Al comenzar la tercera semana de escuela me gustaría darles la bienvenida a todos a este nuevo año escolar con mis mejores deseos para cada uno de ustedes. Espero que sus hijos hayan tenido un comienzo bueno y que al llegar a casa hablen de forma positiva de su experiencia en la escuela, con confianza e ilusión.

En estos primeros días escolares ya hemos empezado nuestro trabajo común en distintas maneras, y se lo agradezco de verdad. Su presencia diaria en la escuela, en cualquier forma que funcione para ustedes, es de suma importancia, bien sea una llamada por teléfono al maestro compartiendo algo importante sobre sus hijos, una pregunta sobre la tarea del día al recoger a sus hijos, o su presencia en las Noches de Currículo, todo ello es muy de agradecer e importante, trabajando juntos en el objetivo común de ayudar a todos nuestros chicos en su educación, bienestar y crecimiento.

Empezamos el año con renovada energía e importante trabajo delante nuestro. Como Escuela IB, el año 2018-19 será un Año de Estudio como paso previo a la Re-autorización que ocurrirá el año que viene. Esta es una labor que nos permitirá continuar siendo una Escuela IB y que requerirá una profunda reflexión sobre quiénes somos y si realmente vivimos los principios de IB en nuestra práctica diaria para llenar de contenido nuestra misión como escuela internacional.

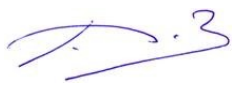
Nuestro trabajo también continúa enfocado en instrucción. Charter Oak se une a los esfuerzos de nuestro distrito que aseguren que todos los chicos puedan alcanzar sus objetivos y sus sueños. Este año nuestra atención prioritaria será en el área de matemáticas. Seguramente muchos de ustedes ya han observado cambios en el modo en el que nuestros estudiantes aprenden matemáticas hoy en día. Su colaboración en este apartado es muy importante y les invito a que nos hagan saber si tienen preguntas, ideas o preocupaciones.

Sostenibilidad y Paz continuarán siendo los dos temas globales que nos ayuden a tener un diálogo con sus hijos para ayudarles a ser más internacionales y darles oportunidades de entrar en acción en nuestra comunidad, empezando por la escuela. Con la ayuda inestimable de nuestra Asociación de Padres y el trabajo del recientemente creado Consejo de Estudiantes, profundizaremos en nuestro compromiso de hacer Charter Oak un lugar mejor y más respetuoso con el medio ambiente.

Nuestro deseo de ser un lugar lleno de paz creo que es visible a diario y también tenemos ocasiones especiales de reflexionar sobre lo que la idea de paz significa para cada uno de nosotros. La primera oportunidad está a la vuelta de la esquina, el 18 de septiembre, cuando celebremos alrededor de nuestra bandera el tradicional Día de la Paz que este año será dedicado a celebrar el 70 aniversario de la Declaración de Derechos Humanos. Nuestros estudiantes, sus maestras y muchos padres voluntarios ya trabajan denodadamente para hacer de este evento, uno de los preferidos en nuestra comunidad, una ocasión llena de significado para nuestros chicos.

Con el trabajo de nuestro maravilloso grupo de maestros y personal de ayuda y su importantísima labor en casa mi esperanza es que sus hijos tengan un año realmente bueno, lleno de oportunidades para crecer, liderar y brillar. Estaremos allí para ellos. Pueden contar con ello.

Afectuosamente,



Juan Melián
Principal

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 13, 2018
Grade 2-5 Curriculum Night
6:00– 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Yom Kippour - NO SCHOOL

Friday, September 21, 2018
International Day of Peace
8:30 a.m. - Flagpole

September 21, 2018
PTO Ice Cream Social
Outside Grounds
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 1, 2018
STAR Assembly
Grades 1-5: 2:00-2:30
Gr. PK-K: 2:45-3:15

Friday, October 5, 2018
Principal's Coffee
8:40 a.m. - FRC

Monday, October 8, 2018
Indigenous People's Day– NO SCHOOL

Thursday, October 11, 2018
School Picture Day

PEACE DAY 2018

Every year, Charter Oak International Academy joins millions of people around the world to celebrate the International Day of Peace. "Peace Day" was established by the United Nations as "a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples." It is celebrated each year on September 21st.

At Charter Oak, students, staff, and families gather around the flagpole to pledge our commitment to creating a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Everyone recites a peace pledge together. Students create "pinwheels for peace" which they decorate with words and images describing their visions of peace and "plant" around the school grounds. This event is a beautiful reminder of our school community's commitment to peace. Thanks to our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Drown and the many parent volunteers who help assemble the pinwheels.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, Charter Oak encourages students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Our students study issues of global significance, resolve to find peaceful solutions, and take action towards a better future for themselves and others.

Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade will gather around the flagpole beginning at 8:30. Our pre-k students will start the day in their classrooms and then have a shorter celebration and pinwheel planting at 10:15 on the pre-k playground. Parents of pre-k students are welcome to bring their children to the compass rose for the 8:30 ceremony.

Please join us as we commit to work together to make the world a better and more peaceful place.

Kirsten Sanderson
IB Coordinator

What's Cooking at the FRC

Did you know there's a place at Charter Oak where you can have a cup of coffee, borrow a parenting book, talk to a Parent Educator about your child's development, register to vote, attend a playgroup with a young child and sign up for parenting, leadership or English classes? All this and more happens at the Family Resource Center. Just drop in Room 150 and check out what's going on.

Do you know someone who might like to learn English and is the parent of a child ages two-four years old? Join us in the FRC for *English for Families and Futures* on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 AM to

noon beginning Wednesday, Sept. 12. Our class combines adult beginner English language learning with family literacy and parenting activities. Learning activities are also provided for the young children who are welcome to attend with their parents. This program is free for all West Hartford parents and is a collaborative program of the FRC and West Hartford Adult Ed. Please call Kim Townsend at the FRC (860-929-5575) for more information.

Early Learning Playgroups begin at the FRC on Thurs. Sept. 13 and will continue to meet from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Children ages birth-four accompanied by a parent or caregiver are welcome to join us for a morning of play, art, snack and circle time. Open to all West Hartford residents. No charge. We can't wait to see you!

Deborah, Zipkin, FRC Director

ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent or tardy from school, please call our office at

(860) 233-8506

If you are put into our voicemail system, press 1 to leave a recorded message. Please include the reason for the absence. This procedure will eliminate incorrect absence reporting as well as unnecessary phone calls to your home.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Changes in dismissal plans do occur. Please make every effort to contact your teacher(s) with any changes.

Students must leave school grounds immediately each afternoon, unless accompanied by an adult, as schools are not responsible for supervision of children after dismissal. Children will:

- Take the bus home.
- Walk home with written permission from parents.
- Be picked up promptly by a parent or designated adult.

ELC Lottery Applications

The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 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, 2019, 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 December 15, 2018.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

As you know, it is very infrequent that we have an emergency closing due to weather, but when this occurs, our goal is to get everyone home and off the roads as safely and quickly as possible. To improve our safety and help meet this goal, we have moved forward the times for emergency closing to the following schedule :

Elementary: 11:45

Middle: 11:00

High: 10:30

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Don't forget to fill out the Welcome Back forms online on your Parent Portal:

https://powerschool.whps.org/public

Vacant Seat Program

Application Start date is Monday, October 1, 2018

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 1st. Requests are taken in this office by telephone on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00 a.m.

From the Nurse's Room

Welcome back for another wonderful year! This is just a reminder to all Charter Oak parents to please send in a change of clothing for your child to keep in his/her locker. Include a **shirt, pair of pants or sweatpants, underwear and socks.** Thank you!

If your child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea , they may not return to school until 24 hours after symptoms have ended, without the use of Tylenol or Motrin. Also, if your child has been started on antibiotic medication, he or she must stay home for the first 24 hours of taking this medicine, This is our district's policy, for your child's safety, and for the safety of other children. Children may remain contagious for 24 hours following an illness, and are at greater risk of getting another illness during this time. Working together, we can keep your child healthy and the whole school healthy, too!

Please remember that if your child requires medication for the school year you must bring the medicine into the nurses office in the original package with a medical authorization form from your child's doctors office. All paperwork must be signed by the doctor and by a parent or guardian and all medication must be brought in by an adult. If you have any questions or concerns please call the nurses office.

Caitlin Manoni and Melissa Wren

School Nurse

Join us as Charter Oak celebrates the International Day of Peace

Flagpole

Friday, September 21,2018

8:30 a.m.

We encourage you to wear white.

(Date change due to wind and rain forecast)

PTO Ice Cream Social

Friday September 21, 2018

6:00-7:30 pm

Charter Oak International Academy Playground

Remember to bring your Summer Reading Coupons!

Before School Safety Procedures

- Students arriving for before school activities such as band, orchestra or chorus should be dropped off at 7:35 a.m.
- Students arriving for breakfast should be dropped off at 8:05 a.m.
- Students arriving for the normal school day should be dropped off at 8:20 a.m.

Your child's safety is important to us. There is no supervision on the grounds until this time. Thank you for your co-operations!!

News From the Gym

In order to have a fun and safe experience in the gym and outside on the field, it is very important that students wear sneakers on days they have Physical Education.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SNEAKERS AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Mr. Hororwitz/ Mrs. Shahverdian
Physical Education Teachers

MOVING OR CHANGING SCHOOLS?

If you have moved or are planning on moving to another address, it is necessary to contact the Residency Office and inform them of your new address. You may reach them by calling (860) 561-6620 or stop by their office at the Town Hall.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found will be located in the metal trunk to the right of the Main Office Entry doors.

Every two weeks, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

SCOUT ME IN™

Pack 145 Open House

Come camping, hiking, racing, and adventuring with us!

September 13, 6:30pm, in the Bugbee Cafeteria

Open to all boys and girls, grades K – 5

For more information: Jonathan Herzog (jonathan.herzog@gmail.com)

Sleep overnight on a **real battleship** – **Camp** in the **Yard Goats** stadium – **Hike** Heublein Tower – **Make** your own **soda** – Design, make, and **race** your own Pinewood Derby car – Go **bowling** – Go **fishing** – Go **camping**

Cub Scouts is a family program dedicated to building character, responsibility, and citizenship. Cub Scouts is open to all boys and girls, grades K through 5

Charter Oak families: Learn more! Come to Pack 145's open house

6:30pm, Sept 13, Bugbee School Cafeteria (enter through front door)

1943 Asylum Ave, West Hartford

For more information: Jonathan Herzog (jonathan.herzog@gmail.com)

SCOUT ME IN™

GRADE 5 PARENTS

Understanding the Human Body
Parent Preview Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 6:30-7:30 PM

CHARTER OAK ACADEMY AUDITORIUM
425 OAKWOOD AVENUE
(PARKING ENTRANCE ON FLATBUSH AVENUE)

Different aspects of curriculum spiral through the grades in mathematics, science, health, social studies, and language arts. In fifth grade, we build upon the previous work in science and health to initiate a strong beginning to the understanding of the human body.

Your child will soon be studying puberty and the human reproductive system. These will be presented by a classroom teacher. You are invited to attend a preview of this unit.

At the meeting, we will preview the video and discuss the supplemental handouts and topics covered.

MIGHTY TIMES: THE CHILDREN'S MARCH

-FREE MOVIE & COMMUNITY CONVERSATION-

Join West Hartford friends and neighbors as we learn the story of how the children of Birmingham, Alabama fought segregation in 1963 through nonviolent protest and were catalysts for positive change that impacted our entire nation. Stay for the youth led panel discussion about activism in our schools and community, featuring West Hartford students.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 2-4PM AUDITORIUM at CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

All ages welcome, especially middle and high school age youth.

Organized by the West Hartford Beloved Community Builders.

Food Drive

Please donate food to help support the West Hartford Food Pantry

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
9:00am-2:00pm
Stop & Shop
176 Newington Road
West Hartford

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

The **Bridge Family Center** has served as the **Youth Service Bureau** (YSB) for the Town of West Hartford for nearly four decades. We focus equally on prevention and intervention and are here to support children, adults, and families.

We meet with your schools regularly to understand trends and how we can help.
(mentoring, in-school counseling, support groups, emergency-response counselors)

We meet with your Police Department regularly and serve on your Juvenile Review Board to support prevention and intervention. (counseling/mentoring for at-risk/high-risk kids)

We operate your West Hartford Teen Center to keep teens connected & directed to positive choices.

We operate your Family Resource Center to support young children and their caregivers.
(Great by 8, play groups, parent support and education, parent leadership groups, developmental assessments, special events, etc.)

We provide Emergency Shelter for teens ages 13-17 who are homeless or who have run away.
Note: 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. This Emergency Shelter information is important to share with local Gay Straight Alliances and others who support the LGBTQ community.

We operate the West Hartford Counseling Center to support children, families, and adults.
Our team includes a child psychiatrist. We accept private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare.

THE BRIDGE FAMILY CENTER

1022 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107
bridgefamilycenter.org 860.521.8035