

*"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: 860-761-1244

Issue No. 5

November 8, 2018

Juan Melián

Dear Charter Oak Families:

We are days away from our Parent-Teacher Conference Week that for us, at Charter Oak, means Student-Led Conferences. For those who are not familiar with this format, you are about to experience a true cornerstone of an IB education. In this model our students are at the center of the conference and present to you an update on their progress, identifying areas of strength, areas in need of attention, and goals for the next few months. This is a unique opportunity for the children to practice, in an authentic setting, their communication skills. But it is also a time for them to reflect on their own work with the guidance and support of their teachers. I hope you enjoy the process and feel proud of your children's work. Thanks for supporting them and please make sure you check the revised schedule for the week since dismissal time is affected on most days.

Also, as we approach the holiday season we need to give special attention to food. 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.

Finally, it seems that the weather is already starting to get chilly. Make sure that your children are appropriately dressed to spend time outdoors during recess. Warm clothes, gloves, hats, and boots are required during winter months. With temperatures going down it is extremely important that students are not dropped at school before the time doors open, at 8:20 for everybody and at 8:05 for students eating breakfast in the cafeteria. Only students with pre-arranged and supervised activities can enter the building before those times.

Here at Charter Oak, we all look forward to seeing you at this coming Conference Week. My sincere gratitude for your partnership and for giving us the chance to work in this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

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

Juan Melian
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak:

Ya estamos a unos días de las Conferencias de Padres y Profesores que para nosotros en Charter Oak significa Conferencias Lideradas por los Estudiantes. Para aquellos que no estén familiarizados con este formato, están a punto de disfrutar de un pilar de nuestra educación IB. En este modelo, nuestros estudiantes están en el centro de la conferencia, presentándoles a ustedes con una puesta al día de su progreso, áreas que van bien, áreas que necesitan mejora y objetivos para los próximos meses. Es una oportunidad única para nuestros chicos de practicar, en un escenario auténtico, sus habilidades de comunicación y también un momento perfecto para reflexionar sobre su propio trabajo con la ayuda de sus profesores. Espero que disfruten del proceso y que se sientan tan orgullosos de ellos como lo estamos nosotros. Gracias por su apoyo y por favor, asegúrense de mirar el horario modificado para la semana dado que la escuela terminará a una hora diferente en varios días de la semana.

También, al aproximarnos a diferentes festividades, debemos prestar atención especial a la comida. Recuerde que todas nuestros salones están libres de frutos secos (peanut). Cualquier comida que es enviada como snack o para una celebración aprobada por la maestra como actividad de aprendizaje debe no tener productos con frutos secos. Además, y como se indica en nuestra Guía de Escuelas Primarias, les recomendamos encarecidamente que solo se envíen a la escuela productos y bebidas saludables. Les rogamos que mantengan todo esto en mente si ustedes desean enviar alimentos y les encareceremos a comprobar con los maestros, las enfermeras, o cualquiera de nosotros, cuáles son opciones apropiadas.

Finalmente, el tiempo parece que empieza a enfriar. Asegúrense de que sus hijos vengan a la escuela con ropa apropiada para la temporada y así disfrutar del recreo de forma segura y cómoda. La indumentaria debe incluir ropa cálida, guantes, gorras y botas apropiadas.

También es importante que con temperaturas bajando significativamente, no dejen a sus hijos en la escuela antes de tiempo y solo cuando las puertas abran a las 8:20 para todos y a las 8:05 para desayuno. Antes de esas horas las puertas están abiertas solo para aquellos estudiantes con actividades pre-programadas y supervisadas.

Les esperamos a todos esta semana para las conferencias y les agradezco de todo corazón su colaboración y por darnos la oportunidad de trabajar en esta comunidad maravillosa.

Afectuosamente,



Juan Melian
Principal

Save the Date:

Monday, November 12

Veterans Day Assembly

8:30am-11:00am



Tuesday, November 13

Kindergarten to
KidCity Children's Museum

9:00am-12:00pm



November 13-16

Student Led Parent Conferences

November 22 and 23

Thanksgiving Break

No School



Thursday, November 29

Picture Retake Day



Congratulations Art Quest

Participants: Lasya P., Maya

H. and Lily S.!

For more than 15 years Art QUEST has provided 5th grade students with an opportunity to explore, create, and extend their artistic knowledge and skills through participating in Art QUEST. Students who demonstrate a passion and are interested in being considered for Art QUEST are required to complete a Student Self-Nomination Form and submit a portfolio for review at the beginning of fifth grade. A Portfolio Review Committee of certified teachers and practicing artists convene in September and make the selection of 30-35 students to participate once a week after school.

-Penelope Drown





STAR STUDENTS



Congratulations to the following students who were Charter Oak International Academy STARS for the months of October and November!

October:

Om S.
Owen B.
Javien G.
Ella C.
Francesca G.
Nour A.
Susanna S.
Colton W.
Jayden V.
Anna S.
Salma R. F.
Ahmad N.
Eden G.
Sabrina M.
Valerie N.
Za'Jira M.
Khalil P.
Cavin C.
Maya T.
Jonathan B.
Vena B.
Nora M.
Oneil P.

November:

Emma C.
Gabriela P.
Celina z.
Ryujin S.
Olin W.
Nathan T.
Ayan S.
Abigail D.
LeRon D.
Tristan B.
Samantha W.
Eva M.
Imogen J.
Kai S.
Josiah B.
Izaiah L.
Dylan G.
Maya M.
Angel G.
Isabella B.
Kemily D.
Maya H.
Nate M.
Faye M.



Student Activities:

Friday , 11/9

Lexia Lab 8:00am Library

Monday, 11/12

Orchestra– Gr. 5 7:45am Auditorium

Tuesday, 11/13

Band– Gr. 5 7:45am Auditorium

Wednesday, 11/14

Gr. 5 Strings Practice 8:05am Music Room
Club
Lexia Lab 8:00am Library

Thursday, 11/15

Suzuki Tour Group 7:45am Room 160
Chorus 8:00am Music Room

Friday, 11/16

Lexia Lab 8:00am Library

Monday, 11/19

Orchestra– Gr. 5 7:45am Auditorium

Tuesday, 11/20

Band– Gr. 5 7:45am Auditorium

Wednesday, 11/21

Gr. 5 Strings Practice 8:05am Music Room
Club
Lexia Lab 8:00am Library



Veterans Day Ceremony

Please join us on **Monday, November 12, 2018 at 8:30 am** in the school auditorium to honor local veterans and military personnel. Students will read their writing and poetry and perform musical tributes. Our invited guest will then attend a breakfast before visiting students in the classroom.

All Veterans Invited

We would be honored to include any Charter Oak parents or family members, who are currently serving or have served in the armed forces, with recognition at our ceremony. Please contact Janet Fournier with their names and contact information at 860-233-8506.

Bakers Needed

After the 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, doughnuts, breads, juice etc.) Donations for the breakfast can be dropped off in the cafeteria before school on November 12th.

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

Janet Fournier

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

If your student has lost anything, remind them to check the lost and found bin/table in the main lobby!

We donate the items every two weeks.





The Winter season is almost here. Please remember to have your children come to school with a warm winter jacket or plenty of warm layers. Hats and gloves and winter boots are going to be important during the snowy days during recess. It is also a good idea to pack extra socks and clothes during the snowy weather.

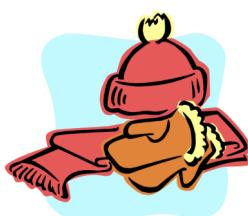
Please remember that Pre-K students have until **December 31** to get their flu vaccine or they won't be able to participate in school. Flu documentation can be given to the school nurse or Pre-K teachers.

This is the time of year where germs are spread very easily and it is a good time to remind your children to cover their cough and wash their hands! Please also remember that if your child has had a fever they can't return back to school unless they have been fever free for 24 hours (1 day) without a fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin.

The winter weather can really dry up our body. Keeping your children hydrated by drinking more water will help with dry and cracked skin. This is also a great time to have your children use chap stick or Vaseline on their lips and the outside of the nose when they get dry and put lotion/cream/Vaseline on their hands. You can put lotion or cream on their hands before bed to help keep them moist overnight. Make sure the lotion is unscented or it will sting on the open cracks on their hands.

Stay warm and dry!

Caitlin Manoni and Melissa Wren
COIA School Nurses



A Fresh Look at your Home Library

A new school year is a great time to take a fresh look at your home library. Having interesting things to read at home is a great way to keep kids motivated.

Below are a few questions to ask yourself about your home library. Some simple changes on your part can help you create an amazing home library, and help your young reader start this new year on the right reading foot!

Does your home library offer...?

A variety of books? Kids love to read all sorts of materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, and poems. Consider including travel brochures, street maps, and programs from school plays.

Books written at a variety of reading levels? It's important to have some books that are easy for your child to read, but it's also good to have some that can be read most successfully with an adult. This balance enables your child to feel confident with some books, and grow as a reader with others.

Some method of organization? Sometimes grouping books by topic or series helps your child find other books they might like to read. Grouping books using book baskets also helps kids find a book more easily than a crowded shelf.

Lots of nonfiction material? Even the youngest readers love to read about real places and things. These materials often include photographs, maps and charts full of interesting information.

Lots of choice? Find creative ways to add books to your library. Playgroup book swaps, yard sales, and used book stores all offer affordable ways to add to your collection.

Take the time this year to consider your home library. Your reader will be glad you did!

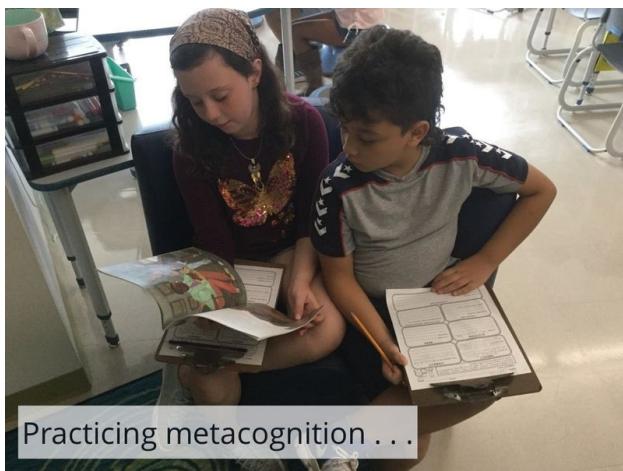
-from www.readingrockets.org-

Leigh Eppinger

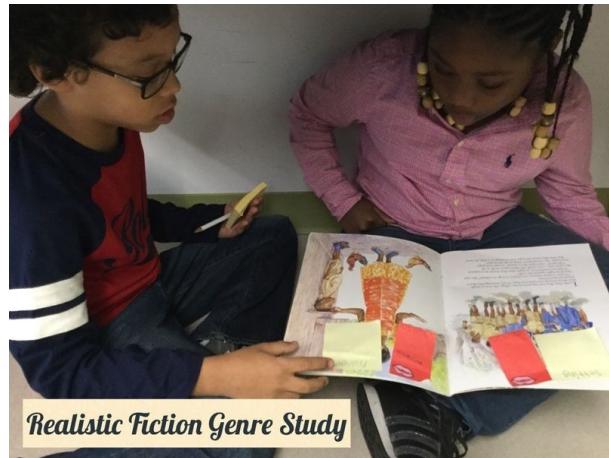
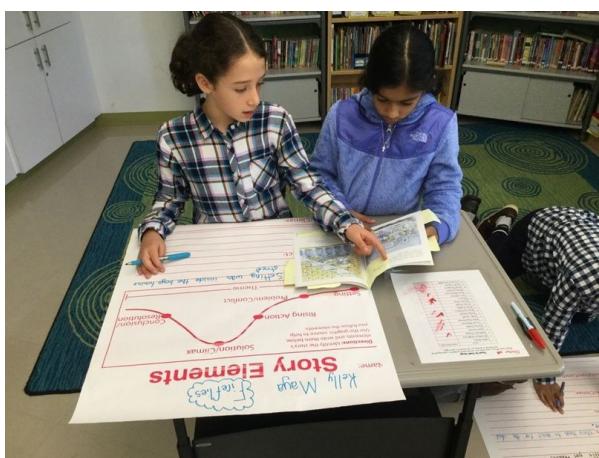


What's Happening in 4th Grade?

The 4th graders are working hard as we approach conference week. We recently finished our first math and reading units. In reading, we were learning about character traits and motivations while in math we worked on clarifying our understanding of place value concepts, rounding and adding and subtracting larger numbers with regrouping.



In writing, we are studying the genre of realistic fiction. We are using mentor texts to learn about smart techniques authors use to help create believable characters and writing plots that have movement and interest throughout the story arc. As we begin writing our own realistic fiction stories we are learning about revision strategies such as how to write interesting leads and creative word choices.



We are in the midst of our new science unit which is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. We are loving all the inquiry based learning that allows us hands on experiences as we grapple through difficult guiding questions like how does the topography change across the United States? Or how does speed and mass affect collisions? We have learned so much already! Here is what the 4th graders have to say about our science lessons:

(Continues on next page)

Lillian: "These lessons are interesting and fun at the same time because we get to work with different materials and find out how they generate answers to our questions."

Evelyn: "I learned about topographic maps. I think they are pretty cool because they are 3D and they show you the mountains and the valleys."

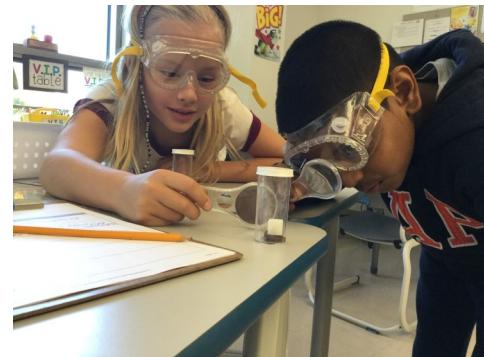
Arnav: "I like the penny experiment because we got to create energy to move the pennies."

Ray: "I like that you get to figure out different things by conducting experiments. For example, we shook a rock, sugar cube and water in a test tube and the sugar cube dissolved and the water turned brown teaching us about sediment."

Emma: "I liked the ramp experiment where we got to learn about kinetic energy. We took turns and learned about teamwork while we explored how different amounts of water had different masses and that impacted how far the cup moved during a collision."

Enjoy these photos of our latest experiment where we were learning about how energy can be used to create motion and how speed and mass affect collision.

Grade 4:
Mrs. Behlman
Mrs. Morris
Ms. Faenza



“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”

— Maya Angelou



The library media center is fortunate to have a substantial collection of books, magazines and audiovisual materials for staff, students and parents to use each school year. Currently, we have over 12,000 copies of these materials which circulate Monday- Friday. Children in grades PK-5 have access to books on a regular basis to fulfill both required reading and independent reading.

Stephen Krashen wrote about this in his 2004 book, The Power of Reading, stating, “Library quality, defined in terms of the number of books in the library and the presence and quality of library staffing, is consistently related to reading achievement.” Did you know...Students who read 1 book per day from Kindergarten through Grade 5 will read approximately 1,000 books. Students need to visit the library more often to exchange books that they finish or are not “just right” for them.

Long ago, libraries used to be a silent place where you could borrow old, dusty books from an old, dusty librarian. School libraries used to be in the basement of the school with a sparse collection of books you could check out. Today, libraries have been transformed into information and technology centers of our schools. The library is the heart of the school. Children use the library for checking books out, finishing projects, using a computer, asking a question or to find a quiet place to work. Who doesn’t love the library?

In our library media center, we have a diverse population of books for preschoolers to middle school students. It is the philosophy of the library to allow students to make choices when selecting books. We instruct students throughout the year to choose at least one “just right” book for reading independently. We encourage students to also choose books based on their interest level.

If you find that a book is too difficult or inappropriate for your child, please remind them to return the book to the library and choose something else. We have open checkout every day of the school week. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the library, feel free to email or call Rebecca at rebecca_cochrane@whps.org or 860-233-8506.

“But why’s she got to go to the library?”
“Because that’s what Hermione does,” said Ron, shrugging. “When in doubt, go to the library.”

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

INFORMATION ON HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in Connecticut have been reported in the news. Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is a common childhood virus that is seen in the summer and early fall.

It is caused by different viruses. It usually affects infants and children under the age of 5, but older children and even adults can be affected. It takes 3-6 days for signs and symptoms to show. It is spread through coughing, sneezing, fluid from blisters on the hands and/or feet or through contact with stool of the affected person. It usually starts with a fever and sore throat followed by a rash with tiny blisters in the mouth, fingers, palm of hands, soles of feet and buttocks. One or all of these areas may have blisters. Symptoms usually can last for about one week. Skin peeling of fingers and toes can occur.

There is no medicine to treat Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease, but the symptoms such as fever can be treated. Ways to control spreading include frequent handwashing, teaching your children to cover their mouths and nose with a tissue or their arm when coughing or sneezing, and preventing of sharing of food, drink and personal items.

Children with Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease generally do not need to be excluded from school

or child care unless the child has a fever and/or is uncomfortable or blisters are open and weeping.

For more information please visit the:

CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/hand-footmouth/index.html> or

American Academy of Pediatrics website: <https://www.healthychildren.org>.

Information provided by: Grace Johnson, RN, BSN



Nursing Department Supervisor, West Hartford Public Schools

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Tuesday, November 13th Dismissal is at 1:30 PM

Wednesday, November 14th Dismissal is at 2:00 PM

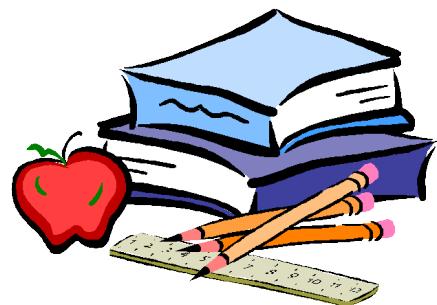
Thursday, November 15th Dismissal is at 1:30 PM

Friday, November 16th Dismissal is at 1:30 PM

Please note that middle school does not have conferences on Friday, November 16th. Please make other arrangements for your child's pick up on Friday if a middle school sibling usually picks them up.

Peace Place closes on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 4:00 pm and on Monday and Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

WHEE closes Monday through Friday at 6:00 pm.





West Hartford Public Schools
Nutrition Services
Happening In The Café

West Hartford Schools Daily Breakfast in the Cafeteria

- Breakfast is served each morning in the cafeteria, approximately 20 minutes before the school day begins.
- A complete meal for just \$1.25 (student price) includes entree, **fresh fruit** or 100% juice, and low fat milk.
- **If you are approved for free or reduced-price lunch, you receive breakfast at no charge.**

Here are some of the daily selections, offered on a rotating basis:

Assorted Cereals, Yogurt, Muffins, English Muffins, Bagels

Breakfast Bars

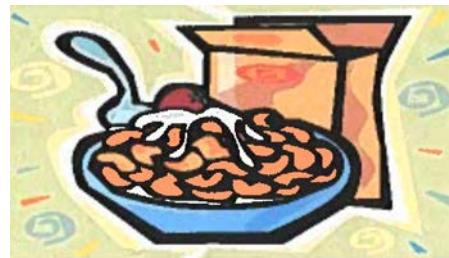
Hot Choices

Sandwich Breakfast Wraps

French Toast, Waffles, Mini Pancakes

All of the above are whole grain and served with choice of fresh fruit, or 100% juice, and choice of low fat milk.

Come join us!





West Hartford Public Schools
Nutrition Services

Happening In The Café

In the spirit of being environmentally conscious, starting January 1, 2019, Nutrition Services will no long be providing drinking straws in the cafeterias.

We will have straws available for nurses, special needs students and any other circumstances where students might need them.



Thank you for your cooperation in this effort and for your support of Nutrition Services.

WEST HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF TREES



HOLIDAY STROLL 2018

The Claypen
Tree

First Church, West Hartford

12 South Main Street

Auditorium in rear, off parking lot

Camp Jewel
YMCA Tree

Thursday, November 29

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Come view and support our fundraiser and you might win a tree
decorated by local businesses, organizations, and families*

Mathnasium
Tree

Enjoy live holiday music!

Entrance: \$5 Suggested Donation

Growing
Great
Schools
Tree

Fundraiser: \$10 for 10 tix or \$20 for 25 tix*

*Proceeds to benefit local community outreach programs that include:

Gifts of Love, Interval House, Loaves & Fishes, Foodshare, Habitat for Humanity, Covenant to Care for Children, Freshplace, My Sister's Place, South Park Inn, Hands on Hartford, The Bridge Family Center

Music
&
Raffle

first church
WEST HARTFORD

12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT • whfirstchurch.org

Cookies
&
Hot Cocoa!

