

Dear Charter Oak Families:

As you might have heard in the past months, this year Charter Oak is working on the *Welcoming Schools Initiative* happening across the district and involving all our wonderful public schools in the system. At Charter Oak we pride ourselves on having a school and community that are open, inclusive, welcoming, and caring. Our IB identity is built around the notion of creating a peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. But the work and the commitment never stop. We remain active in our goal of making sure that here at Charter Oak we all feel at home.

The *Welcoming School Initiative* gives us a tool to do precisely that. It provides an assessment tool that offers us a means of collecting feedback from you and all involved in the school.

In the weeks ahead we will be communicating with you in different ways to collect that feedback. We will start with a brief survey that is designed to gather data about the effectiveness of welcoming and partnering with all of you, our families. In this survey, that you will be able to access soon through our website, PTO and through school email blasts, we will ask several questions that will measure our ability to include you in your child's education, our success in giving you the information you need from us regarding your child's progress, or the opportunities you have in providing input. This survey, also includes a fundamental question, "Does your child's school make you feel welcome?"

The *Initiative* also includes the creation of Family Focus Groups, with the goal of deepening our understanding of what is working well and what can be improved. We will review our website, which will experience a complete transformation next year. We will be the subject of "shopper calls," and we will have a sister school in town visit, that will conduct a walkthrough and will provide us with invaluable input. Using all that our school-based team (with family participation) we will look at the feedback and come up with a plan. Please stay tuned for more information and don't hesitate to let me know if you would like to know more or would like to participate in any way.

In the meantime, please accept my gratitude for your partnership and for all you do to support us as we work with your wonderful children. We are all looking forward to the upcoming conferences that will start in a few weeks. Our children are already starting the reflection process that leads to these student-led discussions that makes all of us so proud!



Juan Melián, Principal

