Dear Charter Oak Families,

At the time you are receiving this issue of our newsletter we are enjoying two events that have become an important part of our school life: the Farmers’ Market and the Literacy Night.

Thanks to the work of many parents, schools across town celebrate nature, nutrition and the idea of sustainability by bringing to our children produce from several local farms. At Charter Oak we are fortunate to have a community that values this celebration that we consider an essential part of our children’s educational experience. On the same day staff, parents and students also celebrate our love of reading with interactive literacy activities for all ages including a book swap, word and letter games, book decoration, bilingual books, and lots and lots of reading.

This week also marked the beginning of our participation in the Global Read Aloud a truly unique experience designed to create some global connections for our students as they engage in reading. Just to give you some examples, kindergarteners will be reading a series of books by Australian writer Mem Fox. First graders have partnered with classes in North Carolina, Michigan and California. Second graders will be doing the same with peers in California and Minnesota. Third graders partnered with classes in Canada and California and fourth and fifth graders will connect with students in Argentina, Canada, New Zealand and Costa Rica. Don’t miss the video announcement on our website where Charter Oak students explain what the Global Read Aloud is all about at http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1479.

Our commitment to meaningful and inspiring enrichment activities is strong at Charter Oak. Please remember to visit our website where you can also find, under School Information, a complete list of school events throughout the year.

This is also a good time to invite our parents to consider volunteering in Explorations, Charter Oak’s afterschool enrichment program. This year we are offering two sessions. The first one will run in January and the first part of February and the second one will cover March and part of April. Please contact us if you would like to be involved in this program that brings so many opportunities for our children to explore new areas of interest. More information to come!

Thank you for your partnership. I look forward to seeing all of you in the many opportunities we have at Charter Oak to come together as a community bringing our children a true sense of belonging to their school and joy for learning.

Juan Meliàn

Principal