

*"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. VII.

December 11, 2017

Juan Melián, Principal

Dear Charter Oak Families:

Every year, as we approach the holiday season, I think of the notion of finding comfort in traditions. They bring us together as a community and they give us a sense of safety and belonging.

At Charter Oak, December always brings our Family Academy Day and the Winter Concert, two events that highlight the spirit of collaboration in our community and our commitment to celebrate student learning together. Our deepest appreciation to the Family Resource Center and their wonderful team for making the Family Academy one of the most cherished and appreciated events in our rich annual calendar of activities. This year close to 300 people attended and experienced the joy of learning in the company of parents, siblings, grandparents and teachers. It was a beautiful Saturday morning that gave all of us the chance to be with each other without rushing, taking the time to learn something new, doing it with the people we love and care so much for. What a great gift for our students! Our children certainly appreciate what we do for them. But, even more, they appreciate what we do with them!

My appreciation also goes to our Music Department and our families for supporting our students as they prepare for this year's Winter Concert. The Winter Concert is another strong tradition in our school and a reflection of our district's and school's commitment to the arts and to a global and holistic education for our children. Please join us this coming Wednesday, December 13th in the school auditorium to celebrate the work of our children in the area of music. The concert will feature Suzuki violin, grade 5 orchestra, grade 5 band, and the fourth and fifth grade chorus.

Talking about traditions, allow me to remind all of you, in these final weeks of the year, that we need to give special attention to our practices regarding food in school. 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.

Thank you for all you do in making Charter Oak such a great community. I wish all of you a joyful and restful holiday break, no matter what traditions you have at home, and a very, very happy and productive New Year.

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

Juan Melián
Principal

Queridas Familias de Charter Oak:

.Cada año, al acercarnos a las festividades de diciembre, pienso en la noción de confort que viene con las tradiciones. Ellas nos acercan como comunidad y nos dan un sentido de seguridad y de pertenencia.

En Charter Oak, diciembre trae la Academia de Familia y el Concierto de Invierno, dos eventos que subrayan el espíritu de colaboración de nuestra comunidad y nuestro compromiso de celebrar juntos el aprendizaje de nuestros estudiantes.

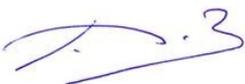
Nuestro más profundo agradecimiento al Family Resource Center y a su maravilloso personal por hacer de la Academia uno de los eventos más queridos y apreciados en nuestro variado calendario anual. Este año cerca de 300 personas acudieron y experimentaron el gozo de aprender en compañía de padres, hermanos, abuelos y profesores. Fue una preciosa mañana de sábado que nos dio a todos la oportunidad de estar juntos sin prisas, haciendo cosas con las personas a las que amamos y que nos importan tanto. Es un regalo fabuloso para nuestros estudiantes. Nuestros chicos aprecian todo lo que hacemos por ellos. Pero, incluso con más fuerza, ellos aprecian lo que hacemos CON ellos.

Nuestra gratitud también se dirige al departamento de música y sus profesores por ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a prepararse para el Concierto de Invierno de este año. Este concierto es otra gran tradición en Charter Oak que refleja el compromiso de nuestro distrito y de nuestra escuela con las artes y con una educación holística y global para nuestros niños. Por favor, únense a nosotros este miércoles 13 de diciembre en el auditorio de la escuela para celebrar el trabajo de nuestros chicos en música. El concierto incluirá violín con Suzuki, orquesta de grado 5, banda de grado 5, y el coro de los grados 4 y 5.

Hablando de tradiciones, permítanme que les recuerde en estas semanas finales del año que presten atención a las prácticas relativas a la comida en la escuela. Por favor, recuerden que nuestras clases son todas libres de cacahuete-peanuts. Cualquier tipo de comida que ustedes envíen para snack o para una actividad o celebración aprobada por el maestro debe excluir maní o cacahuete. Así mismo, rogamos a nuestros padres que elijan solo bebidas y comidas saludables para consumición en la escuela.

Si envían comida para su hijo para snack, almuerzo o celebración especial aprobada, por favor tenga esto presente y compruebe con la maestra, la enfermera o cualquiera de nosotros cuáles son opciones aceptables.

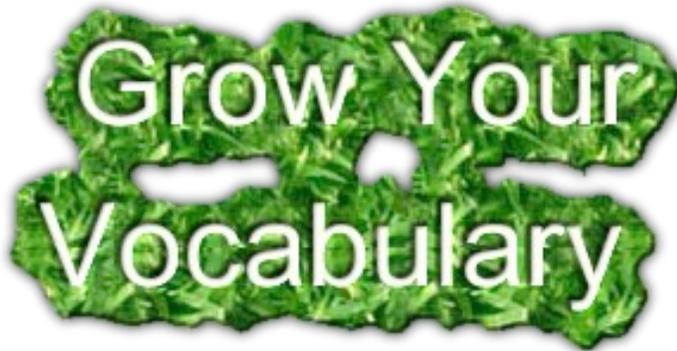
Gracias por hacer de Charter Oak una comunidad tan maravillosa. Les deseo a todos ustedes unas fiestas felices, que les permitan descansar, cualquiera que sean sus tradiciones, y un muy, muy Feliz Año Nuevo.



Juan Melián
Principal

Curriculum Matters

Building Academic Vocabulary



Words help a child represent concepts and organize information. Words help a child follow a conversation and explain their ideas. Words help a child read and comprehend the ideas within the text. Without a strong bank of words, it is difficult for children to sustain the effort necessary to learn, and to become an active participant in the learning community.

The words children encounter on a daily basis can be divided into three levels:

- Tier 1 words - high-frequency words that are used in and outside of school. Children use these words with ease in their own speech and writing. The number of Tier 1 words, and the richness of background knowledge varies child to child.

- Tier 2 words - used frequently in the school setting. Words such as edit, graphic organizer, complex, evidence are tier 2 words. Because they are used less frequently than Tier 1 words, they require additional instruction.

- Tier 3 words are specific words used in content areas (*trapezoid, states of matter, primary document*). They often relate complex concepts, and are often unfamiliar to students. They are important to the thorough understanding of concepts being taught and require instruction within the instructional unit.

A strong Tier 1 word bank supports children in their social interactions and when engaging in social and academic discourse within the classroom. Children who feel confident with their language are more apt to participate in discussions. And children who are more engaged in the classroom have greater success in school.

New vocabulary requires 8 - 12 repetitions to learn. It is important that these repetitions are within meaningful context, have visual clues to their meanings, or offer an opportunity to talk about the new word and have the word/concept explained. The more engagement a child has with a word, the more apt they are to learn and use the word.

Teachers focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 words- connecting new words with the concepts they represent, and working to provide meaningful interactions that support learning. Teachers sometimes need to teach Tier 1 words as well to better support students. A child's vocabulary builds incrementally. First, the child will use the word receptively, understanding when the word is heard or read. With additional exposure, the child will gain a deeper understanding of the word, and can use it productively orally and then in writing. This is the level of understanding we strive for.

Vocabulary development is a key instructional focus in all academic areas, but developing a strong vocabulary can also be supported at home.

What can families do?



- Listen to the words your child is using. Start introducing more specific, more complex, or more descriptive versions of these words, pointing out the subtle differences between the words.
- Notice new words when listening or reading. Help your child learn to use the clues in the sentence or illustration to create a deeper understanding of the word.
- Engage with new words through conversations and enjoyable experiences. Kids love technical words. When pumping up the tires of your bikes, talk about what you are doing. *“The valve from the tire sticks through the rim, and in toward the center of the wheel so it is protected. Turning the cap can be tough because the spokes are in the way... If we put the kickstand down, the bike will balance itself while we inflate the tire.”*
- Keep a list of new words and revisit them. Teach the words as you encounter them, *“Oh, that sign says Caution! That means we need to be careful to stay safe here.”* Play games with these words, and notice when you hear these words again. What categories do words belong in? How might you draw words? Can you give clues or act out the words, and have the child guess which word you are thinking of?

- Read a lot - books, signs, recipes, and talk a lot when you are enjoying these experiences together. Answer children’s questions, using specific and complex words in your answer and explaining what the words mean.
- Model correct use of words. Expect that children will need several exposures to a word to understand the word, and then several more in order to be able to use the word correctly on their own.
- Seek new experiences that offer interesting concepts to talk about, problems to solve, or opportunities to engineer solutions. Talk about these experiences using the specific vocabulary for the situation.

For children learning English:

- Use gestures or pantomime new words.
- Point to pictures and use real objects.
- Share examples of how a new word is used.
- Ask the child to say the new word again.
- Use cognates - words that are derived from the same original word (artista/artist)
- Label pictures and objects, and teach new words in context.

Have fun finding new words to explore, and celebrate your child’s growing vocabulary!

Kate Jerram,
Curriculum Specialist

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 15, 2018



NO SCHOOL

Please clip Box Tops and drop them into the containers in the office. These earn money for our school.



ATTENDANCE

If your child(ren) will be absent or tardy from school, please call our school 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.

Magnet Applications

Magnet applications for the 2018-2019 year at Charter Oak International Academy will be available in the Residency Office, at the Town Hall, in the Charter Oak main office, and on the West Hartford Public Schools website (www.whps.org) beginning on January 11, 2018 and are due at the Residency Office, Room 154 at West Hartford Town Hall, by March 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

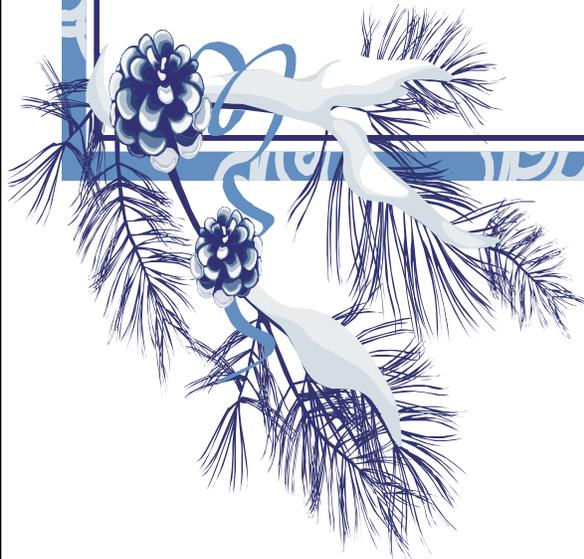
Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

9:30 a.m.

&

7:00 p.m.



Student Activities:

<u>Date/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Monday, 12/11</u>		
Orchestra - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Tuesday, 12/12</u>		
Chorus - Gr. 4&5 (Note different day and time)	8:00 a.m.	Music Room
Homework Center	3:20 p.m.	Various Rooms
<u>Wednesday, 12/13</u>		
Band - Gr. 5	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
Winter Concert	9:30 a.m.	Auditorium
<u>Thursday, 12/14</u>		
Homework Center	3:20 p.m.	Various Rooms
<u>Tuesday, 12/19</u>		
Gr. 1 Field Trip	9:15 a.m.	Playhouse on Park
Kindergarten Field Trip	11:35 a.m.	Playhouse on Park

LOST AND FOUND



Please check the lost and found for any missing items your child may have lost. Every two weeks, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Creating Holiday Learning Traditions



This holiday season consider adding some new traditions for your family that will make meaningful memories and strengthen foundations for reading and learning success.

Listen, Laugh, Learn

- Listen to audio books while you're traveling to visit family, wrapping gifts, or cooking for the holidays.
- Lyrics to holiday songs are fun to read and sing together. It is also good fun and good collaborative writing practice to make up your own lyrics to familiar tunes.
- Start a story-telling tradition by revisiting holidays of the past. Old family photographs at holiday gatherings will help prompt stories about your own life and family traditions.

Read, Relax, Respond

- Put reading and writing skills to practical use. Plan holiday meals by reading cookbooks together, writing the shopping lists and finding the needed items at the store by reading signs and labels. Read the recipe and cook together. While the food is simmering or baking, kids can write and decorate menus or place cards for special holiday meals.
- Set aside time just for reading. Curl up on the couch together and read aloud an old favorite or check out books about another culture's winter celebrations.
- Work on those letters. Improve writing skills with letters to Santa and writing thank you notes for holiday gifts to relatives and friends.

Leigh Eppinger
Early Intervention Teacher

Grade 5 News

“We Teach Peace”



On Thursday, November 2, Charter Oak fifth graders had an amazing opportunity to visit the United Nations in New York City. Thanks to generous donations from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and our very own Charter Oak International Academy PTO, students were able to experience firsthand how the United Nations “teaches peace.”

While studying the mission of the United Nations, students noticed that the international organization has three main focus areas: peace/security; human rights; and sustainability. Each of the three fifth grades looked at their visit through one of these “lenses.”

Students discovered that Charter Oak is like a “mini UN.” Similar to the United Nations, our mission is “to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” (Stay tuned for more news about our “in-the-works” student-led General Assembly, right here at Charter Oak.)

Please enjoy reading student reflections:

- I can teach peace by teaching new students about the IB Learner Profiles.
~Kelly S
- The General Assembly murals were interesting. When people look at them, they have different ideas about what they represent. The artist chose to make them abstract - because we are all unique and have our own perspectives. When people come from all over the world to meet at the United Nations, they share their different ideas about what the murals mean.
~Zoe D.

- At Charter Oak, we respect others’ differences and cultures. We also have the freedom to express ourselves. Overall, Charter Oak is like a “mini-UN.”
~Daphne B.
- One big idea I took from our visit to the UN was, “Don’t be afraid to be yourself.” People come from all nations to be a part of the UN. Even though they might eat different foods or wear different clothes or share different beliefs - they are all accepted.
~Maisie B.
- The goal of the United Nations is to stop war; and to teach peace. In that way, COIA is like the UN: teaching peace and making the world a better place, one step at a time.
~Saurya C.
- Everyone has their own peace. I taught peace by writing a peace poem and sharing it with my class. I asked, “What is your peace?”
~Benjamin K.
- I love the idea of spreading peace through writing. So, I have decided that I want to write peace poems and post them online to spread peace. I think that it will help spread peace.
~Linnaea S.
- I can take action to teach peace by educating other people about the *sharethemeal* app. It helps you feed children in need. One meal costs fifty cents. I can also help by doing fundraisers and food drives.
~Solana C.
- I can take action by being caring. One time, I had a pencil and I didn’t need it, so I gave it to a little boy.
Little acts of kindness.
~Ariel R.
- I can take action by telling people to stop fighting to make a peaceful community. *Be the change you wish to see in the world.* ~ Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
~Riddhi P.
- I think that Charter Oak is like a mini UN because we promote peace. Another reason we are like a mini UN is because we have many goals to make the world a better place.
~Cole S.

- One of the UN's goals is "Life on Land." At recess we can work on putting the things you use away. The UN wants to make the world a better place and Charter Oak does as well. We can teach peace like they teach peace. For example we can accept everyone, because Charter Oak cares about equality.
~Elias D.
- One thing that really stuck with me was when we were going through the seventeen sustainability goals. I saw they were working towards quality education for everyone and I was just like, "Wow!, I need to take action on this."
~Lillian H.
- We can take action by learning different languages and teaching others how to be open-minded and treat others well. We all have different languages, skills and religions and we come together as one to make peace.
~Nathan R.

Grade 5 Teachers:

Mrs. Lizon
Mrs. Perriello
Ms. Roberts

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 parent or designated adult.

REMINDER

HOLIDAY RECESS

NO SCHOOL

December 25, 2017 - January 1, 2018

School Reopens

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

SAVE THE DATE



Morning Mindfulness

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Auditorium

8:00 a.m.

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Auditorium

9:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m.



Star Student Assembly

Monday, December 18, 2017

Auditorium

PK-Gr. 1: 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Gr. 2-5: 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.

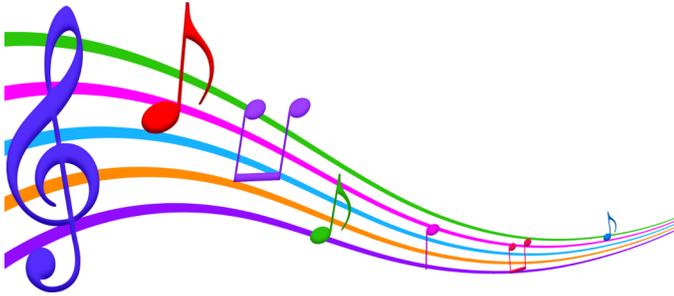
What's Cooking at the FRC

There was a whole lot of learning at Family Academy and lots of fun too. Save the date: the next Family Academy is Saturday, March 24, 2018.

Deborah Zipkin, Director
The Family Resource Center



Notes from the Music Room



The year is off to a great start! Kindergarten students are exploring their voices and learning all about singing, moving, and listening. First graders are just beginning to read and write music! They are excited to be able to clap the rhythm of songs and know how many sounds are on each beat. They will be bringing home their workbooks soon. Second grade students just learned the new note “la” and are now analyzing, writing, and reading songs with “la.” Third grade students are discovering how to sing in unison. Ask your third grader what unison means. They can tell you all about our voice blender too.

Finally, the fourth and fifth grade chorus has been rehearsing every Thursday morning since September. Their concert is on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:30am and 7pm. We can’t wait for everyone to hear our peaceful, joy filled, winter songs. In addition to all this wonderful music-making, some chorus students are getting ready to audition for the Inter-Elementary Festival Choir. Fifth graders have been preparing for the audition by singing independently in a three part round. Wow! They are showing attitudes of commitment, confidence, and independence.

Thank you for supporting our music program at home. Ask your child to sing you a song or share what they have been learning to read or write. They are amazing musicians!

Dr. Zych - Director
Vocal Music

Perspective Taking

Taking the perspective of others is an extremely important trait that we hope to develop in all of our students at Charter Oak. Children who possess perspective taking skills, have a higher likelihood to resolve conflicts peacefully, develop a sense of empathy, and tackle challenges as they arise. In kindergarten through second grade, children are learning the meaning of “Perspective”- and that it goes beyond just “seeing something differently.” In Social-Skills lessons, students are discussing how children have different opinions, thoughts, and beliefs. Our thoughts and feelings about things may be trivial (e.g. what kind of food or sports team we like) to more important (e.g. how we felt when something happened at recess). Children are being challenged to reflect on times when they have had a different perspective than their friend or family, and challenged to take the perspective of others during arguments or conflict. By developing emotional understanding and empathy for other people’s perspectives children are able to solve problems in a more peaceful way.

Later in the school year, an understanding of perspective will be helpful when we begin the discussion of “sizing” problems (e.g. “Is this a small, medium, or large problem?”). Charter Oak students will begin to make the connection that how *we think* about a problem impacts how *we feel* about a problem.

Please take some time to make note of how your perspectives might be similar or different from others’ in family discussions (e.g. “For the holidays our family celebrates . . .” and “I think the Patriots winning again is great, but my brother has a different perspective on all of this winning”, etc. and encourage students to understand that sometimes there is no correct opinion- it is simply a matter of perspective.

Jeff Duquette
Psychologist



Turn Markers



Into Energy!

Dear Families,

I'm excited to tell you about a very special program I'm coordinating at our school in conjunction with Crayola. It's called Crayola ColorCycle – an amazing program devised to turn used markers into energy!

All around Charter Oak students and teachers are collecting used markers that are ready to be discarded. The markers will be sent to a facility where they will be converted into clean fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals and more!

Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house – even non-Crayola brands. Each classroom has a ColorCycle spot, and the Library is the main collection point.

Thank you in advance for participating! With the help of parents like you across the country, the Crayola ColorCycle program can keep tons of plastic out of landfills each year.

Remember, don't throw out that used marker—*ColorCycle it!*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cochrane, Library Media Specialist

Learn more at <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle>



WEST HARTFORD YMCA YOUTH PROGRAMS

WINTER I: JANUARY 8TH—FEBRUARY 25TH

Visit westhartfordYMCA.org to register now!

Fee is **\$85** per child. The basketball league will be held at **St. Thomas Seminary** on 467 Bloomfield Ave. in Bloomfield, and **Sedgwick Middle School** on 128 Sedgwick Rd. in West Hartford. Basketball training and volleyball will be held at the **St. Thomas Seminary**.



Youth Coed League

PARENT & ME

Ages: 2-3
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Saturdays
Time: 8-9:00am

ROOKIES

Ages: 3-4
Location: St. Thomas Seminary or Sedgwick Middle School
Date: Saturdays
Time: 9-10:00am

BOUNCERS

Ages: 5 & Kindergarten
Location: St. Thomas Seminary or Sedgwick Middle School
Date: Saturdays
Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

DRIBBLERS

Grades: 1 & 2
Location: St. Thomas Seminary or Sedgwick Middle School
Date: Saturdays
Time: 10-11:00am or 11:00am-12:00pm

Girls Youth League

One practice held on a weekday, schedule TBD

DRIBBLERS

Grades: 1-2
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Saturday games
Time: 5-6:00pm or 6-7:00pm

SHOOTERS

Grades 3-4
Location: Rotating
Date: Saturday games
Time: 2-3:00pm

PASSERS

Grades: 5-6
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Saturday games
Time: 4-5:00pm

DEFENDERS

Grades: 7-8
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Friday games
Time: 6-7:00pm

Boys Youth League

One practice held on a weekday, schedule TBD

SHOOTERS

Grades: 3-4
Location: Rotating
Date: Saturday games
Time: 1-2:00pm

PASSERS

Grades: 5-6
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Saturday games
Time: 3-4:00pm

DEFENDERS

Grades: 7-8
Location: St. Thomas Seminary
Date: Saturday games
Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Financial assistance available!

Swim Lessons

Classes run on Friday evenings & Saturday mornings!

Location: Mandell JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford

Fee: Water Discovery —\$84

(Ages 6mo-3 years)

Preschool Swim —\$84

(Ages 3-5)

Youth Swim —\$89

(Ages 6-12)



Basketball Training

Ages: 5 & up
Dates: Per Diem
Time: 1 hour
Fee: \$50/child
Group rate: \$10/additional child
Must schedule 3 days in advance!

Volleyball

Grades: 3-8
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 5-6:00pm (Grades 3-5)
6-7:00pm (Grades 6-8)

WEST HARTFORD YMCA 12 N Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
860.521.5830 | westhartfordYMCA.org | Like us on Facebook @West Hartford YMCA

THE MAGIC OF KAYLA DRESCHER

Magic is timeless, it crosses demographics, is constantly unpredictable,
and continues to evolve creatively.

Ignite the "irrational" side of the brain... at this not to miss
ALL AGES PERFORMANCE!



February 25th, 2018

2:00-3:30pm

Sedgwick Middle School Auditorium

Snow Date: March 4th, 2:00pm

Connecticut's Own, LA Based, Professional Magician Kayla Drescher!

- Featured In Current Season Of Penn & Tellers: Fool Us
- Boston's 2013 "Magician Of The Year"
- Today Show's David Copperfield's "Search For The Next Great Magician" Winner
- Comedy Central Stage Appearances



Tickets: \$10⁰⁰

Tickets At The Door
Based On Availability

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SOLD AT INTERMISSION**

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& BENEFITING**



To buy tickets go to: <https://conardsafegrad2018.ticketleap.com/>