



March 9, 2017

Dear Webster Hill Families:

Instilling the value of hard work and an honest effort in your children are powerful and worthwhile endeavors. I've read very interesting research on how effort, work ethic, having a growth mindset, and "grit" are more indicative of a child's success than I.Q. In educating the whole child, we need to focus on perseverance and stamina as a lifelong skill. "Carol Dweck's work has shown that people who believe their basic qualities can be developed through hard work do better than people who believe their basic talents are fixed and innate. Angela Duckworth has shown how important grit and perseverance are to lifetime outcomes. College students who report that they finish whatever they begin, have higher grades than their peers, even ones with higher SAT scores." (From David Brooks' NY Times article on Character) Basically, hard work pays off!

"Giving kids jobs at home teaches them responsibility and other valuable lessons. Young children follow directions as they sort socks or set a table. Older children can take on bigger tasks. You can't expect a job to be done right unless you take time to teach the child to do it right. As difficult as it may be sometimes, it's critical to not take away from a child's sense of accomplishment by redoing a job. With practice and encouragement, jobs help develop responsibility and a strong work ethic as they set the stage for success in life." EducationWorld.com

Parent conferences are coming to a close. Teachers have been excited to share progress with you and to set goals for the remainder of the school year. Please know that a tremendous amount of time and care went into the planning and preparation. I hope your conference was meaningful and productive. I hope you feel that you have a plan and clear path as we move through the final few months of the school year! By working together, we can create plans and clear paths to set our kids up for success.

Jeff

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all staying warm with our recent chilly winter weather. As many of you already know our students in grades three through five will participate in the CT State Testing this spring. I recently came across a terrific article by Dru Tomlin highlighting assessments as a key ingredient in our practice. Assessments are truly used as a way to *fuel learning forward for our students*. We use this information as a school and district, to inform our instructional practice and when needed, give new direction to our teaching. The Smarter Balanced and Science Connecticut Mastery Test are some of the ways we analyze student achievement based on the Connecticut Core Standards which form the foundation of our elementary curriculum. Students will encounter questions throughout the different content area tests that may ask them to explain their reasoning or support their statements with evidence, and problem solve grade level appropriate questions--all skills embedded in our curriculum.

Smarter Balanced is an on-line test which is broken into sub-tests known as Computer Adaptive and Performance Task. This affords students the opportunity to complete the untimed test over multiple days in 45-60 minute intervals, making it more manageable. Testing schedules have been created to have minimal impact on current instruction. Please know that with the exception of grade 5 Science CMTs (Tuesday, March 28), students are **not** timed when testing. In keeping with our typical practice, we encourage students to take their time solving problems and answering questions. All testing, including the Science CMT will be done on a computer this year. Below are the testing schedules broken up by sub-tests for each grade level as well as other helpful links.

More information and sample practice test questions are available on the links below: please Smarter Balanced samples:

<http://ct.portal.airast.org/training-tests/>

Grade 5 CMT Science information: <http://ct.portal.airast.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-CMT-Science-Student-Parent-Brochure-English.pdf>

Grade 5 Science CMT	
Tuesday, March 28	1:30

Grade 5 Math	
Friday, May 12	1:30
Monday, May 15	1:30
Wednesday, May 17	11:15

Grade 5 ELA	
Monday, May 1	1:30
Tuesday, May 2	1:30

Grade 4 ELA	
Thursday, April 27	10:15
Friday, April 28	10:15

Grade 4 Math	
Friday, May 12	11:00
Monday, May 15	10:15
Wednesday, May 17	11:00

Grade 3 ELA	
Monday, April 24	9:30
Tuesday, April 25	9:30

Grade 3 Math	
Wednesday, May 10	9:00
Thursday, May 11	9:00
Tuesday, May 16	9:00

As always, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher or myself if you have any questions at all.

Warmly,

Sabrina Zaffina

Dates To Remember:



March 10	Parent Conferences Parent/Teacher Basketball Game	1:30pm Dismissal 6:30-8:30pm	Conard
March 13	Stock Market Club	3:25-4:15pm	Library
March 15	Mad Science	2:10-3:10pm	Room 3
March 16	Read in the Gym	8-8:30am	Gymnasium
March 17	Math Quest Test Gr 3 & 4	9-10:00am	
March 20	Stock Market Club PTO Meeting	3:25-4:15pm 6:30pm	Library Library
March 22	Mad Science	2:10-3:10pm	Room 3
March 23	Read in the Gym Grade 5 Field Trip	8-8:30am 8:45-11:30am	Gymnasium Capitol & Supreme Court

The following students have earned **STRIVE** recognition for the month of February:

Andrew P.

Shane B.

THANK YOU TO THE PTO

Thank you to the PTO for providing the much appreciated lunches and snacks during conference week!

Calling All Artists!

“Public Works is Always There” Poster Competition

Do you ever look around and notice how beautiful our town is? From the flowers alongside the road, to the excellent efforts in recycling, yard refuse, and garbage removal, West Hartford Public Works does a great job in so many ways to keep our town in tip-top shape. Interested in celebrating these wonderful people? Enter the poster competition!

Posters should be approximately 24” x 36” (please see Ms. Zaffina for poster paper)

Can be done individually, by a group, or as a family project at home

Must be submitted to Ms. Zaffina no later than **Friday, April 28th 2017**

Should be related to the theme “Public Works is Always There”
Be sure to include:

Student name(s) and grade(s) are on the back of the poster

Use proper spelling

Include large images

Color with markers and/or crayons

Not sure what Public Works does for West Hartford? Here are a few ideas...

Maintenance of town roads, athletic fields and playgrounds, parking lots, street lights

Snow removal/Icy roads control

Leaf collection, yard waste composting, recycling collection

Collects Christmas Trees

Sweeps the streets



Delight in this contemporary take on the classic fairytale that includes all the enchanting moments- the pumpkin, the glass slipper, the ball, and more! Ella (Mary Looney) lives in the care of her wicked stepmother (Lila Goldstein) and her two daughters (Janey Lorenzo and Delina Bartolomei). Ella's only friends in the world are the animals in the woods, "crazy Marie" (Zoe Schaefer), and the revolutionary student Jean-Michel (Miles Brown). Meanwhile in another part of the kingdom, Prince Topher (Jake Yearsley) is trying to find himself and learn his place in the kingdom. When his scheming adviser Sebastian (Ray Plocharczyk) suggests throwing a ball so the Prince could meet potential brides, Ella and Topher's different worlds come together. ~ Rediscover some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most beloved songs and expect the unexpected in this clever retelling of Cinderella. **Performances will take place at Conard High School (110 Beechwood Road) at 7:00 on March 10, 11, 17, and 18. There will be a 2:00 matinee on Sunday, March 12.** Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for children/students, and can be purchased beginning February 22, at:

www.conardhighschoolmusical.com

Purchasing tickets online in advance is suggested, remaining tickets will be sold at the door.
There is a limited number of wheelchair accessible handicap seating in the Conard High School Auditorium.
 Questions? Please contact Anne Coon at conardmusical@whps.org
 Follow us on Facebook: Conard High School Musical Productions

Webster Hill alumni participating in the production of Cinderella include:

Josiah Blackwell-Lipkin
 Andre Costa
 Justin Goldstein
 Lila Goldstein
 Maggie Grabber

Zoe Healey
 Jenna Hutensky
 Leah Kelly
 Drew LaCasse
 Vinh-Kha Le
 Riley Liburd
 Veronica Niedmann

Zoe Schaefer
 Helkin Sosa
 Mairead Thiery
 Bridget Walsh
 Emma Wright

The West Hartford Cultural Council's annual Campaign for the Arts kicks off the week of March 20th!

Who We Are:

For over 65 years, the WHCC has sponsored annual performances at our public elementary schools with the purpose of enriching and enhancing our students' education through exciting and inspiring musical, dramatic and visual arts experiences.

Past Performances:

Ball in the House (a cappella-style singing)
Caryn Lin, electric violinist (music and technology fusion)
Dance China (traditional and modern Chinese dance)
Karim Nagi (Arabic music and dance)
Soro Bindi (West African stories, music and dance)

Visit us on [Facebook](#) to learn more about the WHCC and this year's show:
["Abe Lincoln: From Railsplitter to President"](#)
(showcased October/November 2016)

Ten Reasons to Support the WHCC:

<http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=1835>

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

{information will be sent home with your child(ren) the week of March 20th}

Music in Our School



In celebration of National Music in our Schools Month, Webster Hill is excited to welcome Mirela Panaitisor as our 2016-2017 Artist in Residence. Mirela is an accomplished musician and a dedicated educator who started her teaching career 26 years ago. Prior to opening her studio here in West Hartford, Mirela taught music in Romania and Africa. She is a former violinist in the Romanian National Opera House Orchestra. As a local resident, Mirela has spent time in and out of schools spreading her love of music.

While at Webster Hill in March, Mirela will work to enhance music in our school. Students in Pre-K through grade 5 will have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities where they will expand on their understanding of rhythm and movement, multicultural storytelling, and singing along to popular stories.

Wish Winter Blues Away
WITH THOUGHTS OF
Warm, Sunny,
SUMMER!

No one does summer quite like the Mandell JCC. We offer camps and programs of all varieties: from Camp Shalom, our sprawling day camp along the Farmington River; to our standing ovation-worthy Theater Camp; there's our game-play centric Sports Jams specialty camps, as well as the beautiful family summer oasis, The Swim & Tennis Club. There is something for everyone this summer at the Mandell JCC!

Flexible hours. Payment plans. Before and After Care. Contact the Member Services Center, 860-238-4671, or mandelljcc.org/camps to register.

Register for all JCC Camps Online!
Visit mandelljcc.org/camps to sign up to day.

Zachs Campus | 895 Bloomfield Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117



**EARLYBIRD
RATES
END
MARCH 15!**



Director: Thai Tran, 860-231-6410, ttran@mandelljcc.org
Recreation & Wellness Director: Bonnie Hittleman-Lewis, 860-231-6361, blewis@mandelljcc.org

FULL DAY



ANDREW PINNOCK FOOTBALL JAM
Grades 2-8 as of Fall 2017
July 10-14



DANCE JAM
Grades 2-6 as of Fall 2017
July 17-21
July 24-28



DURELLE BROWN BASKETBALL JAM
Grades 1-9 as of Fall 2017
July 24-28
July 31-August 4

HALF DAY FULL DAY



SPORT-A-PALOOZA JAM
Grades 1-8 as of Fall 2017
Jun 14-16* | Jun 19-23
Jun 26-30 | Jul 24-28
Jul 31-Aug 4 | Aug 7-11
Aug 14-18 | Aug 21-25



TENNIS JAM
Grades 1-8 as of Fall 2017
Jun 14-16* | Jun 19-23
Jun 26-30 | Jul 3-7**
Jul 10-14 | Jul 17-21
Jul 24-28 | Jul 31-Aug 4
Aug 7-11 | Aug 14-18
Aug 21-25



KARATE JAM
Grades 1-6 as of Fall 2017
June 19-23
August 21-25



Stem LEGO® Engineering JAM
Grades 1-6 as of Fall 2017
August 14-18



CREATIVE COOKING JAM
with Growing Great Schools
Grades 2-5 as of Fall 2017
August 21-25



GOLF JAM
Grades 2-8 as of Fall 2017
July 10-14
July 31-Aug 4



ZEKE SEGURO SOCCER JAM
Grades 1-8 as of Fall 2017
July 17-21



CHEERLEADING JAM
Grades 1-7 as of Fall 2017
August 7-11



SHARKS COMPETITIVE SWIM JAM®
Grades 3-9 as of Fall 2017
August 14-18



arts camp
Just for the art of it!

Grades 1-6 as of Fall 2017
Wk 1: July 17-21 | Wk 2: July 24-28
Wk 3: July 31-Aug 4 | Wk 4: Aug 7-11

Director: Jane Pasternak, 860-231-6342, jpasternak@mandelljcc.org

Budding artists will spend their mornings creating art through a multitude of hands-on experiences that teach new skills in the worlds of clay, shading, print-making, puppetry, drawing and more. Dress for a mess!

Half-day & full-day options are available. Full-day campers pack a lunch, enjoy additional art activities, snack, swimming and time on the Playscape or outdoor play at the Mandell JCC. Shabbat is celebrated each Friday afternoon.

A lunch option provided by the Mandell JCC's Café J is available.

THEATER CAMP

Entering grades 3-8 as of Fall 2017
June 19-July 14
9:00am-4:00pm

Camp Director:
Jane Pasternak,
860-231-6342,
jpasternak@mandelljcc.org

Young thespians will take to the stage and also learn all aspects of putting on a full theatrical performance. This summer's production will be Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic tale of *Cinderella*.

The theater camp experience will culminate with two performances.

Theater Director: Mao Cherny | Musical Director: Emily Weiser
A lunch option provided by the Mandell JCC's Café J is available. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

*pending licensing agreement

CAMPAREENAH

Preschool day camp program. For more information contact Gen Delay-Pasternak, 860-231-6343, gpasternak@mandelljcc.org.



The Swim & Tennis Club

Director: Sara Billings, 860-231-6331, sbillings@mandelljcc.org
 Summer Phone: 860-243-0794 | Location: 4 Duncaster Rd., Bloomfield

The Swim & Tennis Club is the place for a special family vacation, each and every day. Splash in our pools, slide down our water flume, play on our 8 tennis courts, romp in the 2 playscape structures, or enjoy any of the many additional facility options including: gaga pit, basketball & volleyball court, arts and crafts hut, 4-square, life-size Connect Four, shuffle board, or relaxing in a lounge chair on the deck and catching up on your favorite summer reading. Your summer membership includes the special programs we have on weekdays, weekends and holidays. You belong at The Swim & Tennis Club.

The fresh air, the woods, the water, s'mores by the campfire, making friends and building confidence — that's what Camp Shalom is all about. Located on 75 wooded acres along the Farmington River, Camp Shalom is the perfect place for your children to swim, boat, canoe, water-ski, tube, kayak and paddleboard, under the watchful eyes of Red Cross-certified instructors. Their fun-filled days also include fishing, hiking, sports, the arts and so much more.

For more information, dates, pricing, and for our Camp Shalom brochure, visit www.mandelljcc.org/campshalom or contact Karen Wyckoff, 860-231-6317, kwyckoff@mandelljcc.org. Summer Phone: 860-688-2267.

Valley Sports & Community Center

310 Albany Turnpike, Canton
 860-693-2378 | valley@mandelljcc.org

For a complete list of Valley Sports Jams visit www.mandelljccvalley.org



Seth Greenberg Basketball Academy
 Full-day | Grades 3-9 | August 7-11
\$350 by March 15/\$375 after March 15
 Coach Greenberg, with 35 years experience as a college basketball coach, two-time ACC Coach of the Year and ESPN College Basketball Analyst, will lead all aspects of camp — skill & drill sessions along with competitions — and will be on-court daily interacting with players. He will be utilizing techniques with all campers that he used successfully to develop top competitive college teams.

Join us!

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night



Parents and students are invited to join us at Sedgwick Middle School on the date assigned to your child's current school.

6:30-7:30 pm Presentation in Auditorium

Monday, March 13th
Braeburn, Charter Oak and Webster Hill

Monday, March 20th
Duffy, Wolcott and eligible Smith students

Snow Date: March 27th



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Special Notice to 5th Grade Parents

Bristow Middle School Enrollment Process

Bristow Middle School will be holding its enrollment for the incoming 6th graders in January. Bristow Middle School is a school of choice, drawing its diverse population from all neighborhoods in West Hartford. In the 2017-2018 school year, Bristow will enroll 420 students in grades 6 through 8.

All 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and are attending West Hartford Public Schools are automatically included in this process. Other 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and attend a private, parochial or inter district magnet school like The University of Hartford Magnet School are also eligible, although they need to apply to be included in the process and verify they reside in West Hartford with our Residency office.

Each 5th grader will receive a number randomly, which will establish the choice order. This number will be mailed home to parents on January 19, 2017. In order to help parents make an informed choice, two informational meetings will be held at Bristow Middle School on Monday, March 6, 2017 and Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Parents can choose to attend either of these meetings as they are both the same. Students are invited to attend these meetings with their parents. **We recommend you attend one regardless of the number your child receives so you are prepared in case we get to your child's number.**

For information about Bristow and full details about how this enrollment process works, please visit the Bristow website at <http://bristow.whps.org/>. You can also call or email the principal, Steven Cook, at 860-231-2100/ or Steven_Cook@whps.org.

From the Nurse: When to keep your child home from school

The CDC reports that we are in the peak of flu season, which is now widespread in Connecticut. There have also been more reports of gastric/stomach illnesses locally. This is a good time to review the importance of hand washing, covering coughs, and keeping hands out of mouth with your child.

Stomachache, vomiting, and diarrhea- A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours and the child is able to return to a normal diet. If your child has vomited during the evening or night please do not send them to school in the morning even if they appear to be feeling well. Allow them time to rest and return to their typical activity level. Since viruses spread easily throughout the school system, children should remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or fever to ensure a healthy return to school. Your child should be feeling well in order to maximize the learning experience.

Cold, sore throat, cough- If cold and cough symptoms are associated with fever or they do not readily improve, call your doctor. If the cough is persistent consider that your child may not be able to engage fully in classroom activities. Your child may attend school if there is no fever for at least 24 hours.

Fever- Fever in the school setting is defined as temperature 100 F or greater. Fevers are generally signs of infection. While Tylenol/Motrin may be effective in reducing fever, your child may still be contagious. Even though the fever is temporarily alleviated, it does not address the underlying cause. Your child should be fever free without medication for at least 24 hours before returning back to school.

Returning to school too quickly may prolong your child's illness and allow it to spread to others. Remember to wash hands frequently.

Please remember to **call the school absence line at 860-929-5828** any time if your child is ill. You should call if your child is absent more than one day in a row or if he/she went home ill the previous day. You can leave a message anytime of the day or night.

Mrs. Maggie Cohen, RN



The Family Resource Center presents
Early Learning Playgroup at Webster Hill School

A program for children ages birth through four accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Join us for crafts, stories, songs, snack and fun! No charge to attend.

We meet **Tuesday** mornings from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Winter-Spring 2017 Playgroup

February 7

February 14

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 18

**No session 2/21, 2/28 & 4/11*

For more information call *Family Resource Center* at 860-929-5575

Early Learning Playgroup at Webster Hill School in West Hartford is funded in part by
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Family Resource Center is a program of the Bridge Family Center.

Artbeat 2017

Artbeat is a town wide art show that showcases our student's artistic talent and highlights the valuable role of the visual arts. It is sponsored by West Hartford Public Schools and the West Hartford Art League. Each school selects nine students to represent their school.

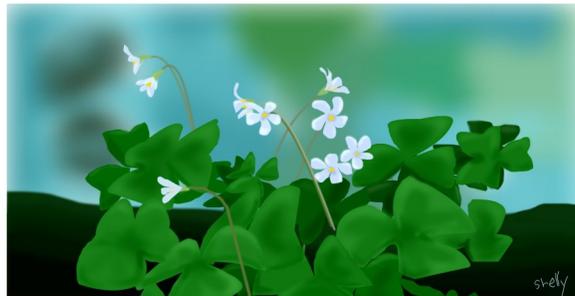
Artbeat is displayed in the Clubhouse and Saltbox Galleries, 37 Buena Vista Road, West Hartford. *Artbeat* will on display from March 8th through March 26th, call 860 231-8019 for gallery hours.

Congratulations to the following students selected to represent Webster Hill:

Jack C., Alex K., Sean L., Joel P., Maryam R., Maggie S. Midori T., Monica R.Z., Nina Z.

ART SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help mat artwork for the art show. All work can be done at home. If you are available to help, you can contact Kelly Nickels at Webster Hill School.



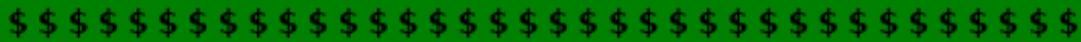
News From Technology Services: Update on Privacy Law

Public Act 16-189

We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff.

In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit www.whps.org/pa189.

Webster Hill Upcoming Fundraisers



Our PTO would like to share with our Webster Hill families all upcoming fundraisers for the remainder of the year. Every fundraiser is important, however we want you to be aware of the choices you will have, so you can plan accordingly.

- **February**
 - ***Read A Thon***-pledging and donation collection (February 27-March 10)
- **March**
 - ***Parent/Teacher Basketball Game*** (March 10th)
 - ***Mixed Bag Designs***-totes, accessories, kitchen/home items (March 20-April 3)
- **April**
 - ***Yard Goats Game*** (April 30th)
- **May**
 - ***Butterfly Dash***-pledging and donation collection (Friday, May 5th)



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

FUND RAISER

The money raised from these fundraisers may go to:

- ✓ Supplementing teacher/staff grants for programs benefitting our entire school
- ✓ School improvement initiatives
- ✓ Organizing family fun events
- ✓ Enhancing our edible gardens
- ✓ Revamping our playgrounds
- ✓ Getting more recess equipment
- ✓ Funding yearly activities



Conard High School, "Class of 2017"

Lawn Sign Order Form

To Order a "Class of 2017" Lawn Sign:

1. Print and Complete this form.
2. Provide a check for \$15 payable to "Conard Safe Grad"
3. Mail your form and check to:

Elisa DiCicco
697 Fern St.
West Hartford, CT 06107

**Also look for order forms at school functions or in the main office in the spring.*

Please print clearly

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Signs will be delivered in April

(You will get a confirmation email shortly after your form and check are received)

Elisa.DiCicco@gmail.com

Board of Education 2017-2018 Budget Information

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

Presentation of Superintendent's Budget

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7 p.m. – Budget Work Session #1

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

Regular Instruction including Supervision of Instruction

Special Instruction, Pupil Services

General Support Services

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 7 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting/Budget Work Session #2

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

**Thursday, March 23, 2017, 6-8 p.m. – Members of Board of Education Presentation to
Charter Oak Int'l. Academy Parents, Teachers, and Other Interested Parties
Auditorium
425 Oakwood Avenue**

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 7 p.m. – Public Hearing

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, Budget Session #3 – Immediately following Public Hearing

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

Budget Review

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 7 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

Town Hall, Legislative Chamber – Room 314

Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget

PUBLIC FORUM ON GOVERNOR MALLOY'S BUDGET PROPOSAL



**STATE SENATOR
BETH BYE**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANDY FLEISCHMANN**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOE VERRENGIA**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEREK SLAP**

WEST HARTFORD'S LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER HARTFORD

**Invite Residents To Participate In
A Public Forum To Share Their Thoughts About
The Governor's Proposed Budget**



**CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
425 OAKWOOD AVENUE, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2017
FROM 7:00PM – 9:00PM**