

A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending March 3, 2017

A Commitment to Unity – Our Community

Through challenges, we choose to forge a stronger connection with those around us and work for the greater good.

The transition that we are experiencing this winter, of February into March, has been unique in many ways as the temperatures have soared and kids have been in school in shorts and tank tops before February has even ended. While the weather has presented challenges that most have embraced, the harder challenges of social interaction have provided frequent opportunities in the past month for our community to come together to discuss and to make a difference.

I am always proud to live and have grown up in Cherry Hill, and I am honored to work for the school district on behalf of the community. This past week my pride our community soared as I saw the reaction to the callous threat that was made against the Katz JCC. Our community came together and loudly proclaimed that Cherry Hill is no place for hate. Our mayor and council members, our chief of police and our community leaders all participated in publicly responding publicly responded to support our community..

As a school district, we have been engaged in an ongoing conversation about race and hatred and the ugliness of words as High School East prepares for the opening of *Ragtime* on March 10th. Today, High School East welcomed Mr. Brian Stokes Mitchell, the Tony award winning actor who originated the role of Coalhouse Walker, Jr., to speak with the students and cast and members of our cultural clubs. Mr. Mitchell, pictured above, was warm and wise as he answered students' questions and challenged them to continue having difficult conversations at home with their families, with their friends now and when they go off to college. "When we are open to each other," Mr. Mitchell said, "wonderful things happen." Members of our

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Cherry Hill Band & Orchestra Concert

March 6 @ 7 pm

Cherry Hill High School West

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

March 6 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

March 6 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

March 7 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

March 7 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 7, 8 am-4 pm,

Malberg Administration Building

Children must be 5 years old by October 1, 2017 to be eligible for kindergarten.

It is not necessary to bring your child to register. Specific dates and times for each school are available on the district web site.

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community have continued to come together to support our students – to listen, to interact, to hear.

We received notification last night that the funding our school district receives from the state for the 2017-2018 academic year will remain flat. I am glad that we are not getting less money from the state, but as an educational community we continue to receive only about 40% of what we should receive from the state – 60% of what we should receive is being distributed someplace else. This is not a new issue. Members of our community have been taking action. The “Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools” committee has been active and alive indefatigable in their pursuit of our legislators and in their pursuit of Cherry Hill’s fair share of state funding. The members of this committee, these passionate neighbors of ours, need the support of the entire community in supporting advocating for our children, our district. Take some time to visit their website and see how you can help in this effort.

Opportunities for our community to come together, to help and to support exist throughout our school district. National Honor Society and Cum Laude students provide tutoring for peers, the Latinos at West is active in mentoring and our Athletes Against Bullying groups go out and speak to peers and to younger students. In every one of our schools, students and teachers create opportunities to make a difference, opportunities to speak about what is right, what is positive, what is needed in our community.

Each of us can make a difference in our community. Each of us has an opportunity, every day, to choose to make a positive difference. Support our schools, support our community, support the Cherry Hill Food Pantry – let your voice be heard. Model for our children how to make a positive difference, be a part of the greater good that will benefit Cherry Hill.

Please stay in touch with the district and stay informed about what is taking place. Please visit the district web site, <http://www.chclc.org/>, and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). If you have questions related to the district, please share them with us! Try the new [Quick Question](#) feature on our web site.

Congratulations to the High School East Boys Swim Team on their second State Championship win in three years! And good luck to the High School East Vex Robotics Team as they host the State Championship

Cherry Hill High School East Spring Musical

*Ragtime**

March 10, 11, 17 & 18

@ 7:30 pm

March 12 & 19 @ 2 pm

* *WARNING: This program contains strong, potentially offensive language. Parental discretion is advised.*

Beck Spring Drama Show

Legally Blonde, Jr.

March 24 & 25 @ 7 pm

March 26 @ 2 pm

competition on Saturday and compete to move on the World Championship.

Have a wonderful weekend, and thank you for making a positive impact on our community.

Regards,

Joseph N. Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

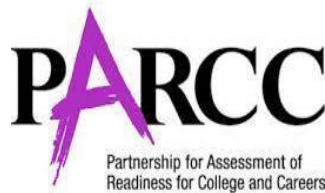


Cherry Hill West Students Win Honors in Deborah Heart Challenge

Congratulations to the Cherry Hill High School West students who competed in the Deborah Heart Art Competition and Science Challenge on February 26 and took home multiple awards.

The West Science Team came in second place out of nine competing schools. Others participating were Pemberton Township, Lenape, Shawnee, Cherokee, Seneca, Maple Shade, Moorestown Friends and Northern Burlington Regional.

Pictured above is the West team, from left: junior Joanna Kuo and seniors Michelle Mac, Thomas Potts, Emily Adams, Kailee Hutchinson



Important New High School Graduation Requirements for PARCC in Effect Now

As a reminder, the State Board of Education has approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2017 through 2021, and beyond. [Click here for details on these new regulations, which include the fact that the Class of 2020 is required to sit for the PARCC assessment in order to graduate.](#)

[A parents' guide to accessibility for English Learners taking the PARCC assessment is available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, improvements have been made to this year's PARCC assessment.



CHAACA Announces Winners of Essay/Poster/Video Contest

Congratulations to the students across the Cherry Hill Public Schools who won honors in the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association's (CHAACA's) Essay/Poster/Video Contest.

In January, students from all grade levels were invited to write an essay, make a poster or create a video depicting an African-American in the arts born before 1960. The contest winners were announced at the February 28 Board of Education Meeting as a wrap-up to African American History Month.

[Click here for the list of winners](#), pictured above.



Cherry Hill West also earned art honors at the event. Sharina Kuo, pictured above with her work, took first place for her 2D drawing and sophomore Amelia Shefer earned second place for her 3D ceramic piece. Sophomore Kennedy Kaufman won honors to have her 2D work on display.

All of the winning artwork will be displayed at the Liberty Bell Bank in Cherry Hill after it shows at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center. The dates will be announced soon.

[Click here to see a chart of the improvements.](#)

Parents concerned about PARCC accessibility are encouraged to refer to the brochure, [Expanding Access: Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in PARCC Assessments—A Parent's Guide.](#)

PARCC testing begins for [high school students on March 28, 2017](#) and for [middle and elementary school students on April 19.](#) Schedules vary according grade level and subject. The Cherry Hill Public Schools Assessment Office also offers [an FAQ document to answer common questions about the PARCC assessment process.](#) All parents are encouraged to read this FAQ.



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