

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending March 17, 2017

When Celebrating and Learning Go Hand in Hand

Everyone loves a celebration. In the Cherry Hill Public Schools, we seize opportunities to turn learning into celebrations, and celebrations into catalysts for learning.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! As I was out and about in the District today, I noticed many of our faculty, staff and students celebrating the day by wearing green – and many classes at the elementary level celebrated the day with lessons on Irish traditions, folk lore and even dance. We've been fortunate this week to have many things to celebrate – and our students reaped the benefits not only of the joy of a good celebration, but of the learning that led them there and will stay with them long after the events are over.

On Monday, March 13, Clara Barton Elementary School threw a school-wide "50th Birthday Party" to mark the 50 years since the school first opened. All of the students, from kindergarten through 5th grade, celebrated the milestone with age-appropriate activities designed not only for fun, but for learning as well. The entire school gathered for an assembly featuring 5th graders who spoke about each decade – beginning in 1966 – leading up to the present day. Pictured above, the presenters spoke about the music, movies, inventions and famous moments of the past 50 years as other students, many in costume, acted out the events. The students' energy and enthusiasm for their school, and their pride in the work they put into the celebration, were inspiring to witness.

Just yesterday, March 16, I was delighted to attend a surprise celebration at Cherry Hill High School East following the daytime performance of the school's spring musical, *Ragtime*, for the junior and senior classes at the school. (A performance was held for freshman and sophomores last week.) The cast, crew, orchestra and student audience were surprised by a

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten Registration

March 7 through 30, M-F, 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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Cherry Hill High School East Spring Musical

*Ragtime**

March 17 & 18

@ 7:30 pm

March 19 @ 2 pm

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

For ticket information, call the Box Office at (856) 424-2222, extension 2019.

Board of Education Work Session - RESCHEDULED

March 20 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Beck Spring Drama Show

Legally Blonde, Jr.

March 24 & 25 @ 7 pm

March 26 @ 2 pm

Board of Education

visit from representatives of Music Theatre International (MTI), the company which distributed the rights to perform *Ragtime* to Cherry Hill East, as well as Mr. Nick Costa, the husband of Ragtime lyricist Lynn Ahrens, and Mrs. Helen Doctorow, widow of E.L. Doctorow, the author of *Ragtime*, the novel. Mr. Drew Cohen, president of MTI, presented the East community with MTI's Courage in Theatre award. Founded in 2007, the award is not given annually; rather, it is presented when an arts organization has, as MTI describes, "confronted challenges that threaten their ability to explore or express their artistic vision in positive ways, even if it means taking an unpopular stance."

It has been incredibly gratifying to see how our community has come together during the tumultuous process of bringing the production to life. The work of our teachers, administrators and students to conduct an open, honest and respectful dialog – and to keep that dialog alive after the show closes this Sunday – is what caught MTI's attention and inspired them to award the East community for its efforts. [The special guests at Thursday's show were unanimously impressed by the production itself, as well.](#) Most important, we all, as an educational community and as a larger community in Cherry Hill, have renewed our commitment to continue learning about and talking through the challenges we all face as such a diverse population. We are dedicated to supporting and understanding one another.

I encourage you to be involved in conversations regarding our schools and community through the many sources available to you. Attend our Board of Education meetings, or watch them on our [Live Stream](#). If you have a question and your friends and neighbors echo it as well, ask it through our [Quick Question](#) portal. Please mark your calendar for my next Online Lunch [Live Stream](#) on March 30 at noon, or watch it later on the [CHPS YouTube channel](#). Stay connected with the District through our free District App available at the App Store and Google Play – you may customize it to see your child's school calendar, lunch account, receive push notifications and more! And of course, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

I wish you all a relaxing last weekend of winter – spring begins on Monday, March 20!

Regards,

Joseph N. Meloche

Action Meeting

March 28 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Cherry Hill High School West Spring Musical

Sister Act

March 31, April 1, 7 & 8

@ 7 pm

April 2 & 8 @ 2 pm

[Tickets available online.](#)

SAVE THE DATES:

Earth Festival: April 29, 10 am-2

pm @ Croft Farm

details at

<http://www.sustainablecherryhill.org/>

Dancing with the Cherry Hill

Stars: April 30, 7 pm @ Cherry Hill

High School West

[Tickets available online.](#)

Joseph N. Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Paine Elementary Second Graders Present Living Wax Museum

The second grade students at Thomas Paine Elementary School on March 17 presented a Living Wax Museum for their families and friends. Students chose a person from history or present day who has made a difference in the world, such as "Rosa Parks" and "Franklin D. Roosevelt," pictured above. They then researched that person, wrote an oral presentation and recited it while in costume at the Wax Museum event. Guests at the event stepped on a replica "play" button on the floor in front of each "wax" figure to hear that character's speech. Most students recited their speeches from memory.

The event culminated in a song sung by all of the students in unison.

Congratulations to the students and the Paine second grade teaching team for putting together such an entertaining educational event!



PARCC Update: "Get Ready for the Test" Guide for Parents Now Available

The CHPS Assessment Office offers a [Learning Heroes Guide, "Get Ready for the Test" for parents in anticipation of the upcoming PARCC assessments](#). This one-page guide was developed by Scholastic in partnership with the National PTA.

Important new graduation requirements for the class of 2021 pertain to 8th grade students currently enrolled in as Algebra I PARCC-eligible course. [Please click here for details on requirements for 8th grade Algebra I students.](#)

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](#)



Cooper Elementary Annual Science Fair Highlights Variety of Projects

Students at J.F. Cooper Elementary School on March 15 participated in the school's annual Science Fair. The 29 participating students presented a variety of projects including the subjects of rocks, minerals and fossils, as pictured above, food sciences, robotics, and engineering concepts.

Members of Cherry Hill High School East's Science National Honor Society were on hand to view the projects. They also conducted demonstrations with light and skeleton bones.

Congratulations to all participants on this successful collaborative effort!

[accessibility for English Learners taking the PARCC assessment is available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, improvements have been made to this year's PARCC assessment. [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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Cherry Hill Public Schools | 45 Ranoldo Terrace, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 | 856-429-5600