

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week of January 22, 2016

Presenting the PARCC

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're following up with information on the 2015 PARCC assessments, and what to expect from PARCC in 2016.

During last spring's administration of the PARCC assessment, we watched as students throughout the district engaged in a 'new type' of testing. There was discussion in the press and throughout the state about the new test – why it was selected, what it would mean, and whether it was appropriate. While the test was administered on computers and ChromeBooks and the phraseology and structure of the questions had changed, the fact that remained was that it was a standardized assessment. As our educational community does on a daily basis, we made sure our students were prepared academically and positively!

Dr. Farrah Mahan, the district's Director of Curriculum, and Mrs. Val Schmid-Sadwin, the district's Coordinator of Research and Assessment, delivered a presentation on January 19 at High School West on the results of the 2015 PARCC assessment and on the current planning for the 2016 PARCC assessment. They will give a repeat performance next week (Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm) in the auditorium at High School East. The presentation is thorough and informative and it demonstrates that Cherry Hill, once again, performed well on a standardized assessment. The children in our district, through the support and instruction provided the staff, continue to achieve at a high level – which is exciting! There is always room for improvement, and as a district we will continue to analyze the individual results, as well as the grade level and subject area results, to see in what areas we can improve the academic program.

Throughout the process of preparing for the first administration of the PARCC assessment and the subsequent follow up, we have learned a great deal as a district about the assessment and about the pedagogical approaches that our teachers use in the classroom. Standardized assessments are not new for students, nor are they going to disappear from the educational landscape. These types of assessments are one of many external tools that are used to determine how the students are progressing through the academic program. These assessments are not the "be all and end all" of student success and as a district, we shall not treat them as such.

PARCC 2016 Information and Q&A Session

January 25, 7 pm, Cherry Hill High School East

Board of Education Action Meeting

January 26, 7pm, Board Room, Malberg Admin. Bldg., 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Kaleidoscope Concert

January 28, 7:30 pm,
Cherry Hill High School East

Silent Auction preceding concert begins at 6:30 pm.

West Lab Theater Production

The Laramie Project
January 29 & 30, 7 pm,
Cherry Hill High School West

Our dedicated teachers and staff have embraced the positive academic momentum as the district has implemented curricular revisions during the past few years. The richness of the academic program and the academic opportunities and experiences that our students are presented with on a daily basis are incredible. We expect that the overall performance, as well as individual student performances, will continue to shine through this year's testing cycle.

Information regarding the testing schedules for the schools will be sent home and posted electronically in the next month.

As we anticipate the first significant snowfall of the winter, please be careful and stay warm and dry. Check on your neighbors and look out for one another. Remember, information regarding school closing/delayed opening can be found on our website, at <http://www.chclc.org/>.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joseph Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

P.S. Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the very latest happenings around the District. Our [District Events Calendar](#) on the District web site is a great resource for updates about upcoming events. [You'll find the 2015-2016 School Year "Overview" Calendar here.](#) For events and activities in the Cherry Hill Community, check out our [Community Bulletin Board](#) on our [web site](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

CANCELLED



Carusi Middle School Named Green School of the Month by Sustainable Cherry Hill

Congratulations John A. Carusi Middle School students and staff for being named "Green School of the Month" for the month of January by Sustainable Cherry Hill.

Carusi takes their sustainability efforts far beyond recycling by acting on the issues of hunger, equality, waste reduction and pollution.

Students already are tackling food waste reduction in the cafeteria. They educate one another at lunch and collect unopened food items, as pictured above, to donate to a local soup kitchen in Camden.

Carusi's "Homegrown Project" includes a community garden and a sustainability-focused film and speaker series. Carusi recently earned a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant to support this project. The grant, funded by the NJEA, was one of more than \$180,000 in grants awarded to qualifying schools and districts by Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

Carusi's active Green



CHPS Students Mark MLK Day of Service

Cherry Hill Public Schools students of all ages across the district marked the Martin Luther King Day of Service, January 18, with a variety of learning and service activities.

For example, Thomas Paine Elementary School students, pictured above, during the week of January 11 studied Martin Luther King's writings and made "I have a dream" crowns to wear.

At Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, students school-wide collected items for those in need. All students also attended an assembly for a tribute to Dr. King. Lessons at each grade level centered on various aspects of Dr. King's work as well as the Civil Rights movement in general. In music classes, students learned the song, "I have a dream..."

Carusi Middle School hosted its MLK Day of Service Project on Thursday, January 13.

Grade 6 decorated place mats for use in the Cathedral Kitchen facility in Camden. Grade 7 decorated MLK-related centerpieces for use at the Cathedral Kitchen, while grade 8 stuffed utensil packets to be

Predicted Snow Leads to Weekend Cancellations

All buildings in the Cherry Hill Public Schools will be closed after 5 pm on Friday, January 22 and will remain closed through the weekend in anticipation of inclement weather.

The SAT Testing at both Cherry Hill High School East and Cherry Hill High School West has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016.

Cherry Hill High School West's Lab Theater production of The Laramie Project has been rescheduled for Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30 at 7 pm.

The Rosa v. Carusi boys' and girls' basketball games at Rosa Middle School have been rescheduled for Friday, February 19.

Please check the [District web site](#), our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, and CHPS-TV (Channel 19 on Comcast and Channel 24 on Verizon) for school closing/delayed opening updates.

Team, along with partners including the Cherry Hill Education Association, Sustainable Cherry Hill and Sustainable Jersey for Schools work collaboratively to provide resources and expertise.

More details on Carusi's "Green School of the Month" honor may be found in [Sustainable Cherry Hill's online newsletter](#).

distributed there.

Students of all ages also participated in the township's MLK Day of Service on January 18 at Cherry Hill High School West.

We salute all of our schools for their participation in the MLK Day of Service.