

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending April 29, 2016

Putting the "Fun"

UPCOMING
EVENTS

in Fundraising

The Cherry Hill Education Foundation happily produces great community events to raise money to benefit CHPS.

This weekend ushers in the end of April and the beginning of May. It's the time of year in Cherry Hill Public Schools for the ever-popular dance show, "[On Stage with the Cherry Hill Stars](#)" (formerly known as "Dancing with the Cherry Hill Stars"). The enthusiastic members of the [Cherry Hill Education Foundation \(CHEF\)](#) outdo themselves every year with this production. This year's show on Sunday, May 1 at 7 pm at Cherry Hill High School West – with the theme "Enchanted" – promises not to disappoint.

For those unfamiliar with the production, local "celebrities" sign up to dance in the live show, similar to the television show "Dancing with the Stars." Each celebrity dancer commits to raising at least \$1,000 for CHEF. Audience members may vote for their favorite dance couple by donating money in the couple's names at the event or [online](#). The dance couple who receives the most votes wins. Additional prizes for specialty categories also are awarded at the end of the evening. This year's celebrity contestants, dancing to music chosen to reflect the "Enchanted" theme, include Cherry Hill West Assistant Principal Augie Ramos paired with Cherry Hill East Assistant Principal Donean Chinn-Parker, as well as Kilmer Elementary Principal Rebecca Tiernan and Sharp/Harte SACC site leader Anna DeMarco, each paired with a professional dancer. Thirteen other couples will be competing as well. Tickets are still available online. I encourage you to come out and be a part of the fun at this event. The photo above of the dance team "The Groovers" -- teachers Janine Cooney, Chelsea Dolchin, Michelle Kosmaczewski, and Kim McAllister -- is from last year's show.

Be sure to be on the lookout for other CHEF fundraising events throughout the school year. The foundation's first-ever 5K fun run took place earlier this month and will likely now be an annual tradition. Later in May, CHEF is sponsoring a fundraising night at a Philadelphia Soul Arena Football game (see "Upcoming Events," right). In the fall, CHEF hosts a

[Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival](#)

April 30, 10 am-2pm

[Family Fun Bike Ride @ 8am](#)

[On Stage with the Cherry Hill Stars](#)

May 1, 7 pm Cherry Hill High School West

[Tickets available online](#)

[BOE Work Session](#)

May 10, 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Stars Over Africa](#)

May 11, 7-9 pm, Rosa Gym

[Philadelphia Soul Arena Football Game Fundraiser](#)

May 14, 6:30 pm Wells

Fargo Center

Portion of proceeds benefits CHPS

[Tickets available online](#)

Golf Tournament fundraiser. Interested participants should contact the [foundation](#).

CHEF has donated more than \$800,000 in grants to the Cherry Hill Public Schools since late 2007. Check out the bottom of their [web site home page](#) for testimonials from their grant recipients. Their great contributions to our students across the district are inspiring.

I also would like to recognize that this week was Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, which you may read more about in the story below, right. Schools around the district also extended their appreciation to our administrative professionals and secretaries on Administrative Professionals/Secretaries Day on April 27. We thank all of these folks for their tireless efforts to helping the district maintain its excellence inside and outside the classrooms.

This weekend offers a lot for the entire family to do. I will be at the [Earth Festival](#) at Croft Farm from 10 am-2 pm Saturday to see our schools' displays, student performers and high school mascots. I hope to see you there and at "[On Stage with the Cherry Hill Stars](#)" on Sunday! I will be there next weekend, and look forward to seeing you there, too!

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.



High School Musicians Earn Prestigious Recognition

Congratulations to the 16 Cherry Hill East students who placed into the 2016-17 All-State Chorus!

Mixed Chorus

Jenna Camacho
Jared Camacho
Katie Cotter
Cassie Cuddihy
Madison Dautle
Liz Hallinan
Jake Ropka
Katherine Trauger
Matt Young

Treble Chorus

Gianna Douglas
Julia Langmuir
Cate Marcelli
Melissa Oberstaedt
Leon Pintel
Kathryn Quay
Isabella Williamson-VonStenz

Congratulations also go out to The West Jazz Ensemble for their impressive finish at the Deptford High School Jazz Festival on April 22. The band competed against other bands from New Jersey and Pennsylvania and a "Superior" rating, the highest rating possible. Senior pianist Dylan Hafner won a trophy as Best Soloist.

The ensemble will compete in the New Jersey (NJAJE) State Jazz Finals on April 30 in Princeton. We wish



U.S. AIR FORCE
J•R•O•T•C

West's Air Force Junior ROTC Wins Top Honors

Congratulations to the Air Force Junior ROTC instructors and cadets of Cherry Hill High School West, who earned an overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standards," the highest rating attainable, during their rated unit evaluation on April 15.

Lieutenant Colonel Allen Schwartz and Senior Master Sergeant Vivian Bender created a dynamic and supportive learning environment coupled with an excellent community outreach. The instructors were providing outstanding leadership in administering the cadet centered citizenship program. The Cherry Hill High School West cadets performed exceptionally well and took great pride in leading and accomplishing their unit goals.

The Cherry Hill High School West Air Force Junior ROTC citizenship program is making a positive impact on the cadets, the school and community.



CHPS Says "Thank You": Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week

The week of April 25 was Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, a designation to recognize the hard work of the staff in afterschool (and before school) care programs. In Cherry Hill, these tuition based programs include [School-Age Child Care \(SACC\)](#) – morning and afternoon – for grades K-5 including holiday and summer programs, [Extended Day Child Care \(EDCC\)](#) – morning and afternoon – for kindergartners, and the [STudent Enrichment Program \(STEP\)](#) – including afterschool classes, [Family Friendly Centers](#), [Holiday Child Care](#), and [Summer Camps](#) and Wrap-Around to Title I Summer Academy.

Formed in the mid- to late-1990s, these Cherry Hill programs are staffed by educational assistants, retirees from the education field who have returned to work, professionals who have chosen a SACC career path, college students, high school students and adult volunteers. The STEP

these student musicians continued success!

program also includes staff who are CHPS teachers such as Kathleen McEleney, Judy Cuning, Mike Cheeseman, and David Sonneheim. Since the programs' inception, enrollment has grown from 200 to more than 1,000 students in elementary schools throughout the district.

"These programs are *not* babysitting," says SACC Coordinator Melissa Conklin. "Students in these programs receive structured learning through fun activities and homework assistance which require planning an academic expertise." The staff's creativity and enthusiasm keep the programs humming, she says.

"Ed Klitz (Student Enrichment Coordinator) and I say that without the staff, there would be no programs," Ms. Conklin adds. "Our staff members show tremendous dedication, commitment and flexibility in their work. It's not unusual for them to move from location to location, depending on our needs."

Many CHPS employees start in SACC or EDCC before becoming teachers in the district, notes Karen Rockhill, principal of the Barclay Early Childhood Center. "I actually started my career in education as a morning supervisor for

SACC at Johnson Elementary School,” she says. “I later was given the wonderful opportunity to serve as Johnson School's principal from 2007 through 2014. I am now the District Principal for the SACC programs!”

While the district thanks the programs' staff for their hard work, perhaps the best thanks comes from the parents. Ed Klitz, Student Enrichment Coordinator, recalls, “We still remember appreciation such as the ESL parent who wrote about one of the programs: *‘I was struggling every day. (The staff) always guided my children and had never missed any homework nor projects. My children loved going to school every day, and told me how much they had fun at school and the homework club... Thank you does not enough to describe my gratitude but thank so much for your support.’*”