

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



CHPS WEEKLY

# Moving Forward & Learning As We Go

**The world is changing every day, in ways large and small. Our schools are there to help our students navigate ever-new waters in preparation for the one sure thing in adult life: change.**

It's been a week of focused discussion about change – not only here, in the Cherry Hill Public Schools community – but in our larger national community and of course, in the world. Today marks a national and world change of remarkable proportions, as a new President of the United States – a new “leader of the Free World” as many refer to the position – has been inaugurated into office for the next four years. President Trump has already spurred the passions and opinions of people with drastically different beliefs, points of view and personal history. Regardless of one's perspective, it seems nearly all of us can agree that the swearing in of our new president begins a markedly new era.

One discussion within our schools and among the outside community this week was regarding how the inauguration might or might not be used as a teaching tool. Not surprisingly, opinions varied and spilled into social media. [You may read the letter, sent to middle](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Education Action Meeting

January 24 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building

### Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

February 6 @ 6 pm  
Malberg Administration Building

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

February 6 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building

### Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

February 7 @ 6 pm  
Malberg Administration Building

### Board of Education Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

February 7 @ 7 pm

[school parents earlier this week, regarding how coverage of the inauguration will be used in our schools.](#) On behalf of our entire administration, I appreciate respectful input into any decision process. I also appreciate when those who disagree with a decision express their point of view in a respectful way.

Each day, decisions are made in the Cherry Hill Public Schools which will not make every single community member happy. I will offer the perspective that, while you may not agree with a certain decision or practice, there are a number of avenues to make your voice heard. You may choose to call or email us, to submit a [“Quick Question”](#) on our web site or to watch the [Online Lunches with the Superintendent](#). You may attend and speak at [Board of Education Committee, Work Session and Action Meetings](#). You may even schedule a meeting with me. Whatever avenue you choose, I ask you to remember that decisions are made based on civil dialogue, and the most important consideration in our decisions is the effect on our students.

I caution you when taking to social media to air a grievance or to join in a conversation in which not all of the facts are presented. A social media conversation can devolve quickly, and the conclusions drawn from such threads can be completely erroneous, akin to the childhood game “Whisper Down the Lane.”

So as changes occur in our community – and they will continue to, on a regular basis – let’s remember that our response is a reflection of who we are. Words matter. Disagreements are healthy, but only when they remain reasoned and respectful.

We are all lifelong students, learning as we go. I encourage the adults and students in our community to continue to respond to change in productive way, whether helping facilitate it or helping refine it.

I wish you a restful weekend.

Regards,

*Joe Meloche*

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

Malberg Administration Building

### **Board of Education Work Session**

February 14 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

### **SAVE THE DATE**

5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Parent Program:

### **Internet Safety: The Dangers of Sharing Too Much**

Presented by the Cherry Hill

Police Department

February 22 @ 7 pm

Carusi Middle School



## Great Kindness Challenge Kicks off in CHPS Next Week

Several Cherry Hill schools will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge during the school week of January 23-27, 2017. Students pledge to perform as many acts of kindness as possible, choosing from a 50-item checklist. As part of this year's [Great Kindness Challenge](#), schools will raise money to help build a new school in Pakistan.

"Kind Coins for Pakistan" is a global service project with the goal of building a fully equipped six-room school for approximately 200 students, ages five-12. Bret Harte Elementary School and A. Russell Knight Elementary School are among the schools participating in the coin collection effort. Additionally, a Harte third grader is organizing the effort to sell bandannas at lunchtime to raise money for the Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation, which helps children with cancer.

The total Acts of Kindness performed by each school



## Rosa Music Department Raises Money for Cherry Hill Food Pantry

In a new effort spearheaded by the Rosa International Middle School Music Department this year, the Winter Concert included a fundraising effort for the [Cherry Hill Food Pantry](#).

On Friday, January 20, 2017, music teachers Mrs. Sue Mark, Mr. John Murtha and Mr. Scott Graser presented a check for \$3,080.71 to Cherry Hill Food Pantry Board President Mike Doyle, Staff Member Paul Kupahl and Executive Director Janet Giordano, pictured above, second, third and fourth from the left. Student musicians also performed as part of the event.

Congratulations to the music department and to the parents and students who were "instrumental" in the success of the fundraiser!



## Kindergarten Registration and Middle School Open Enrollment Dates Now Available

Kindergarten/first grade registration for children entering public school for the first time begins on March 7, 2017 at the Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace. **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](#).

Information meetings for 5th grade students and their parents will take place in late January and early February. Parents and students are recommended to attend the session at their sending school and at Rosa International Middle School. Dates and times of the

will be counted and announced at the end of the week. Last year, Harte students performed almost 5,000 acts of kindness and plan to break that record this year.

Watch this newsletter and our [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for coverage of events and assemblies throughout our schools as they participate in the Great Kindness Challenge!

information sessions, as well as the open enrollment period dates, are available on the [District web site](#).

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