

Acceptance

As we wish one another "Happy New Year," it's a great time to set our sights on our vision for 2016 and beyond.

January 2016 has arrived, and following the fanfare of New Year's Eve and the excitement of the winter break, our educational community has been a bustling center of activity. Our DECA students from High School East and High School West dazzled on Tuesday in the regional competition setting new records for overall success and the number of students moving onto the state competition. Our athletic teams have been in the pool, on the track, on the mat, and in the gym – cheered on by students and parents and community members as they compete and represent our schools, honoring community through their commitment and their sportsmanship. Of special note, Yamalis Villegas (HS East, '16) scored her 1,000th point in basketball this week. What a tremendous accomplishment and an outward representation of her focus and dedication.

There has been a great deal of discussion in the schools this week about areas of focus for 2016, discussions about resolutions and setting goals for the academic year and the calendar year. I have enjoyed speaking with students and hearing about their goals, which have included everything from being accepted to a specific college, to making the baseball team, getting an A in Geometry, or learning to ride a new bike. Students, children, are passionate about their goals and excited about sharing their desires. This passion and excitement is part of the nourishment that feeds all educators, that inspires us. We can all embrace this passion and excitement as we refocus our direction and our goals for 2016.

Cherry Hill is a community of character, of acceptance, of diversity, of inspiration. I was reminded of this as I witnessed the swearing in of our Town Council members and Mayor on Monday and of our Board of Education members and President and Vice President on Tuesday. I was reminded of these traits when I was at the 8th grade parent night at Carusi and at the Winter Vocal Concert at High School East. I watched children and I watched adults

BOE Work Session

January 12, 7pm
Board Room,
Malberg Admin. Bldg.,
45 Ranoldo Terrace

High School Course of Study Information Night

January 13, 7 pm
Rosa Middle School

Schools Closed

January 18
Martin Luther King Day of Service, 10-11:30 am,
Cherry Hill High School West
Volunteer space is limited. Please register in advance with the Township Recreation Department at (856) 488-7868, or email Events@chtownship.com

PARCC 2016 Information and Q&A Session

One program; 2 dates & locations:

January 19, 7 pm, Cherry Hill High School West

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

interact and converse; I watched as folks from various generations and backgrounds smiled and laughed and shared each other's company. And I enjoyed saying hello and catching up with many of them.

Our educational community, our Cherry Hill Community, provides us with daily opportunities to reinforce our character and our commitment to one another. I encourage everyone to embrace these opportunities, to seize this opportunities, to renew focus on positive outcomes and successes. As an educational community, we will continue to commit to supporting each of our students, every day, to be accepted and to be successful.

Did you have the chance to watch the sunrise during the winter break? There is a new opportunity every day; choose one.

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.



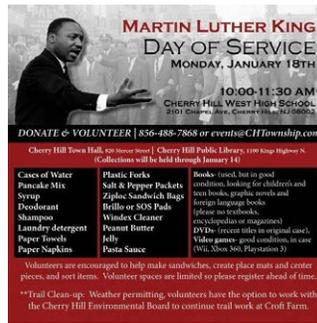
Cherry Hill East Student Represents School in National Cheerleaders Association London Tour

Samantha Greenbaum, a sophomore at Cherry Hill High School East, recently represented the school in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) London tour as an All American Cheerleader during Winter Break.

All American Cheerleaders are chosen through a try-out process at NCA Camps after they are nominated by NCA staff.

As part of the London tour, Samantha, pictured at the top left of the photo above, performed with other high school cheerleaders from across the U.S. in a routine in the London New Year's Day Parade. The parade has evolved into a huge event with up to 10,000 performers from across the world (twice as many as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York) and hosts hundreds of thousands of spectators. The parade also reaches and a live TV audience of several hundred million.

To date, London's New Year's Day Parade and Festival has raised or donated more than 1.5 million pounds (about



Community-wide Day of Service to Take Place at Cherry Hill West

The days leading up to the MLK Day of Community Service on January 18 at Cherry Hill High School West will be devoted to collecting donated items to support local charities.

Community members are invited to contribute to theme of "help us, help others" by donating items through Thursday, January 14.

The collection effort, a partnership with the Cherry Hill Public Schools, will support four local charities: the Cherry Hill Food Pantry, the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, the American Red Cross and the Cherry Hill Public Library.

The items being collected are:

- Cases of water
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels and napkins



Where Are They Now?

Jordan Parent, pictured above, graduated from Cherry Hill High School East less than two years ago, but she's already making her mark as a charitable community outreach director and an entrepreneur – all while attending Rutgers University-Camden full time.

Before graduating from East in 2014, Ms. Parent attended Woodcrest Elementary School and went to middle school at Beck. Most of her favorite memories, she says, are from her time at East.

"My passion used to be sports until I got into a car accident," she recalls. "Then I found volunteer clubs as a way to take up all my extra time, which led me to my true passion that has completely changed my life."

Ms. Parent's passion is her work with [Students on a Mission](#), a program she started in October 2014. Students on a Mission provides reliable student mentors for Camden teens to show them how their lives can change "after looking at life a bit differently," Ms. Parent says. Much of this happens through volunteer

\$2.2 million) to London charities.

Congratulations to Samantha on this achievement!

- Plastic utensils
- Sandwich Bags
- Brillo or SOS Pads
- Glass Cleaner
- Clorox Bleach
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Books (Used, but in good condition; especially children's and teen books, graphic novels and foreign language books; no textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines.)
- DVDs (Recent titles in original case.)
- Video games (Good condition, in case. Wii, Xbox 360, Playstation 3.)

Donations can be dropped off in collection bins at two locations until **Thursday, Jan. 14:**

- Cherry Hill Township Municipal Building, 820 Mercer St.
- Cherry Hill Public Library, 1100 N. Kings Hwy.

Volunteers from the Township, community and schools will come together from 10 am to 11:30 am Monday, Jan. 18, to sort the items at Cherry Hill High School West. Other volunteer activities will include making sandwiches and creating place settings and centerpieces for Cathedral Kitchen.

Weather permitting,

work.

“During the school year, we work with teens to find the best way for them to volunteer, develop skills that will help them find jobs and communicate effectively within their communities,” she says.

Every summer, Students on a Mission will take the teens on a volunteer trip to a third world country, where they will volunteer with a medical, educational, and construction team for a week. In preparation for the trip, the teens will learn how to fundraise, deliver sponsor letters and organize events to finance it.

“These teens will come back with a new perspective on their lives after seeing a different type of poverty. They will create an amazing ripple effect throughout their community,” Ms. Parent says. “We are excited to see who gets involved and how this unfolds. This August we will be taking two teens to Belize!”

Students on a Mission is working toward registering as a not-for-profit organization and is currently affiliated with the Gloucester County Community Church. A dean at Rutgers University-Camden also is guiding the group in its work.

After graduation, Ms. Parent, a business management major, plans to expand Students on a Mission to include more teens and

volunteers also may sign up to work with the Cherry Hill Environmental Board to complete trail work at Croft Farm and on nearby open space.

Volunteer spaces are limited. Please register ahead of time by contacting the Township Recreation Department by phone at (856) 488-7868, or by e-mail at Events@chtownship.com.

other cities. On top of that, she will continue to run Window Mechanics Direct, a company she heads in Williamstown, NJ.

“There were so many people who were influential to me during my time in the Cherry Hill Schools,” Ms. Parent says. “In elementary school there was Mrs. Boyle, and Mr. Klear at Beck.” She lists Sra. Alpizar, Mr. Rouen, Mrs. DiStefano and Mr. O’Connor -- all from East -- as among the “amazing people and many more who have had a huge part in shaping me into who I am today.”

Interested in being featured in "Where Are They Now?" or want to nominate someone to be featured?
[Email the public information office](#) with a brief description and contact information.