

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week of January 29, 2016

CHPS Celebrates Black History

UPCOMING EVENTS

Month

February is Black History Month, with much to look forward to in tributes and performances.

As this snowy week brings the month of January to a close, we can all look forward to an exciting month in February in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Rehearsals are underway for our musicals, our winter sports teams are wrapping up their seasons, and our students and teachers at all grade levels are getting ready to study and pay tribute to Black History Month.

Monday, February 1 is National Freedom Day, which commemorates the end of slavery with the anniversary of the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865. It's a fitting kick-off to a month during which we examine the many valuable contributions of African Americans to our society. At A. Russell Knight Elementary School on February 1, for example, students will participate in the African American Read-In Chain. Joyce Kilmer Elementary School plans a Tribute Assembly that day to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Another exciting event is the Black Broadway Performing Arts Company's presentation of the original musical *Tulsa* on February 5 and 6 at Cherry Hill High School West at 7 pm. I had the pleasure of seeing the cast present a preview of the show at the January 26 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Keisha Nelson, a Cherry Hill East graduate who now works as a Student Advocate at Cherry Hill West, wrote the script and directs the show. Her husband, Cleveland Nelson, wrote the music. Their collaboration with the cast of students from both high schools East and West, shown at rehearsal in the photo above, has resulted in a professional-quality production and lively history lesson about the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1920s. The city, known at the time as "Black Wall Street," faced devastating destruction during the Tulsa Race Riots. *Tulsa*, the musical, brings that time in history to life as it examines the value of "home" and the struggle to regain the familiar sense of comfort and love after tragedy.

Beyond the message of the show itself, is the story of how it came together. I encourage you to watch the [2-](#)

West Lab Theater Production

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

Rosa Middle School 5th Grade Information Night

February 2, 7 pm, Rosa International Middle School for students and parents of **Barton, Johnson, Kilmer, Kingston, Knight & Paine schools**

February 3, 7 pm, Rosa International Middle School for students and parents of **Cooper, Harte, Mann, Sharp, Stockton & Woodcrest schools**

WE Are Music - Vocal Concert

High Schools West and East Singing Groups perform for the Trinity Community Concert Series, February 2, 7:30 pm @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

Black Broadway

Tulsa
February 5 & 6, 7 pm,
Cherry Hill High
School West

Board of Education Work Session

February 9, 7 pm, Malberg Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Carusi Middle School

minute promotional video put together by cast member and West senior Niara Wilcox to see the joy and the hard work the students have put into the production. I certainly look forward to attending one of the performances next weekend.

Don't forget, too, that Cherry Hill West's production of *The Laramie Project* will run tonight and tomorrow night at 7 pm in the West Auditorium, after having been postponed because of last weekend's snow. It's another show not to be missed.

Be sure to enjoy some good family time and relaxation this weekend. See you in February!

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.

5th Grade Information Night

February 10, 7 pm,
Carusi Middle School

Beck Middle School 5th Grade Information Night

February 11, 7 pm,
Beck Middle School



Carusi Middle School



Harte Elementary



Career Fair Offers

and Barton Elementary Named State Schools of Character

John A. Carusi Middle School and Clara Barton Elementary School recently earned the prestigious designation of State School of Character. Schools of Character demonstrate the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education as outlined by character.org.

In their application for the School of Character designation, Carusi detailed the qualities that make the school a standout in character education, which are rooted in the school's motto, "Enter to Learn, Go Forth and Serve building a better tomorrow, for ourselves and our community."

Carusi students, some of whom are pictured above during a Week of Respect activity, also promote a pledge to "Enter to Learn" to become Caring, Academic, Responsible, Unparalleled Students with Integrity (CARUSI). These CARUSI Core Values promote Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Trust and Family help to frame Carusi's character education program.



For their application, Clara Barton Elementary School highlighted the school's "WE ARE" program. This program consists of the WE ARE words students and staff helped develop, displayed throughout the school as pictured above. The 25 words are character traits that all

Participates in Global Kindness Challenge

To further their goal of being "Harte SMART" (Striving for Excellence, Mindful of Others, Acceptance, Responsibility, and Teamwork), Bret Harte students took on the global Great Kindness Challenge this week.

The [Great Kindness Challenge](#) (GKC) is a bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The week is devoted to students performing as many acts of kindness as possible.

Last year, Bret Harte students, pictured above kicking off this year's Great Kindness Challenge, performed more than 4,000 acts of kindness. The students have set a goal to break that total this year. In 2015, all students around the world who participated in the GKC performed over 109,344,450 acts of kindness.

As part of the GKC, students are raising funds to help build a new school for students in the Mikei village in Kenya. Additionally, through the efforts of a Harte SMART 5th grader, bandanas will be sold at lunchtime with all proceeds going to support the [Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation](#), which supports children with cancer.

Congratulations to the Harte family for their commitment to the Great Kindness Challenge and the good works that come from it!

Hands-on Learning about Future Jobs to Middle Schoolers

Eighth grade students at Carusi Middle School were treated to a College and Career Day on January 21. Students were encouraged to wear their favorite college gear as they participated in the fair during Morning Advisory.

Encouraging students to explore careers of interest is a key way to demonstrate the relevance of post-secondary education. The career fair connected students with different professions and gave community members a chance to share their expertise with the students.

Guest presenters inspired the students by sharing their career journeys, typical workday, education requirements and elements unique to their jobs, such as the police gear modeled in the photo above.

Another College and Career Day is planned for next year.

members of the school
community strive to live by
each day.

Additionally, the words act as
the names of Barton's "WE
ARE Family" groups. These
groups meet monthly and
consist of students from mixed
grade levels working together
on character education based
learning activities.

Congratulations to both schools
for their great achievements!