

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending February 19, 2016

Competitive
Spirit,
Competitive
Achievement

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Cherry Hill students achieve tremendous success in various competitions.

In the Cherry Hill Public Schools, student learning occurs far beyond the classroom. From the time they are old enough in elementary school to form and join clubs and teams, our students learn a great deal about themselves, their peers and their community by participating in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. As they prepare to enter their freshmen year of high school, many students are ready to focus their passions and truly hone their skills. Students have the opportunity to choose between a host of interscholastic athletic teams, plays and musicals, a vast and varied collection of clubs and service organizations, as well as student publications.

This sometimes frigid month of February is a time when many of our students find themselves in the spotlight, with an opportunity to shine in their chosen pursuits. This weekend alone, the Boys Swim Team from High School East will be swimming for the state championship, the Robotics Teams from High School East will be hosting the New Jersey State Robotics Championships, the High School East Winter Track Team will be competing in the state championships and the High School West Mock Trial Team will be preparing for the regional competition on February 24. It is a busy weekend, and this is only a sample of how our students will be focusing their time, energy and talents.

Competitive spirit and competitive achievement reigned last weekend when the boys' basketball teams from High School East and High School West faced each other during the East Invitational Tournament (as seen the photo above from nj.com). Although I was unable to attend, I eagerly followed the event via [Twitter](#), and I could feel the palpable level of energy that filled the DiBart Gymnasium. This game was another in a series of competitive athletic events between our high schools, with students, parents and community members cheering as a sea of folks in purple and red. Mr. Allen and Mr. Tarrant and their teams, like all head coaches and their student athletes, thrive in this environment. And no matter what the final outcome on the score board, all who participate win.

By Monday morning, we will all know the outcome of this weekend's competitions – in terms of points earned and who comes home with a trophy. I can say confidently right now, that all who participate – including those who attend to cheer – will have won

[SAT Makeup Test \(for Students Who Registered for January 23 Test\)](#)

February 20, 7:45 am
Cherry Hill High Schools
East & West

[NJ State Robotics Championship](#)

February 21, 10 am-4 pm,
Cherry Hill High School
East

[BOE Action Meeting](#)

February 23, 7 pm,
Malberg Board Room,
45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Cherry Hill East Spring Musical](#)

Beauty and the Beast
February 26 & March 4,
7:30 pm
February 27 & 28 and
March 5 & 6, 2 pm
"Brunch with Belle" March
5, noon
See the [CHEast Theater Web Page](#) for details

for being a part of the event. I wish that I could attend every event in which our students compete and perform, but since I cannot, I encourage everyone to attend an event, to cheer on our students, to encourage our students, to embrace the spirit of Cherry Hill that makes this such a wonderful community.

Get involved; be involved; stay involved.

WE are better when **WE** are together and **WE** support one another.

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 West Earns Recognition for Rock Your Socks Campaign

Representatives from New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno's office visited Cherry Hill High School West on February 17 to collect the final round of socks donated to the "Rock Your Socks" challenge. Student organizers and West Principal Dr. Kwame Morton, pictured above, received a letter of thanks from the Lt. Governor for their efforts.

In November, Lt. Gov. Guadagno invited Cherry Hill West to be one of three high schools to join the "Rock Your Socks" campaign to raise awareness about the Covenant House, which provides food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and other important services to homeless, runaway and trafficked youth ages 18-21.

The Rock Your Socks campaign asked participants to use social media to collect new socks for Covenant House residents, to help them keep warm during the winter.

Cherry Hill West modeled their challenge on last year's "Ice Bucket Challenge." Participants videotape or photograph themselves wearing "crazy socks," pledged to donate socks, and then challenged



Bret Harte Elementary Named Green School of the Month

Congratulations to Bret Harte Elementary School, named by Sustainable Cherry Hill (SCH) as its Green School of the Month for February.

Although all 19 Cherry Hill Public Schools became Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certified this fall, Harte was the only one to receive Silver Certification – and one of only five to do so in New Jersey. (All of our other schools received Bronze Certification.) Silver certification indicates that a school has made significant progress in a number of categories toward sustainability and is a state-wide and national leader.

SCH named the following of Harte's characteristics as outstanding examples of sustainability leadership:

- An active Green Team
- A student-led environmental club
- A waste reduction pledge signed by more than half of Harte's families and dozens of community members
- Lessons in being "recyclecool"



Earth Festival Offers Volunteer Opportunities

The Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival will be Saturday, April 30 at Croft Farm from 10 am-2 pm with Family Bike Ride registration at 8 am.

All 19 Cherry Hill Public Schools will have displays at the festival. Live entertainment will include the Rosa International Middle School singing groups "Rosettes" and "Close Harmony" as well as other student acts.

Volunteer opportunities -- which may be used as community service hours -- are available for students age 13 and older. Organizers warn that Volunteer Corps slots are filling up fast. [Interested volunteers may sign up by clicking here.](#)

Attendees are encouraged to ride their bikes to the festival, as valet bike parking will be available.

[Sponsorship opportunities are still available.](#)

More information will be included in future issues of this newsletter throughout the coming weeks.

at least one other person to do the same.

Dr. Morton was the first person in the state to announce his donation and challenge on December 10. From there, the challenges took off, reaching beyond the school community to Township officials and the Board of Education.

West's goal to collect 500 pairs of socks quickly increased to 1,000 as donations poured in. At the close of the donation period this week, West had reached more than double its goal: 2,000 socks had been donated. Congratulations to all on job well done!

- Reminders about "going green" for the summer

- A Green Apple Day planting event

- A new outdoor classroom

- Trashless Tuesdays

- Events that promote physical activity

As the Sustainable Cherry Hill e-newsletter says, "With its comprehensive approach and commitment to sustainability, the sky's the limit for Bret Harte Elementary School. We can't wait to see what they take on next!"

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