

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



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of September 18, 2015

We the People

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Constitution Day, when we celebrate one of the cornerstones of democracy, applies to life in the Cherry Hill Public Schools for our students, staff and community members.

September 17th is the annual celebration of National Constitution Day and I had the great fortune of attending the Kilmer Constitution Ratification Ceremony at Kilmer Elementary School! To see the work that Mrs. Tomasetti and her student delegates prepared was truly inspiring! (For more details on the assembly at Kilmer, see the story below, left.) I know that Clara Barton and A. Russell Knight have shared similar experiences. Watching the student delegates prepare to present their work to the entire student body demonstrated their serious commitment and their feeling of responsibility to their peers and to their community.

National Constitution Day provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the commitment to ideals that embodied the development of the Constitution back in 1787. Certainly, much has changed in our country and our world in the more than 225 years since the words were first placed on paper. Our country is much more diverse and inclusive, enriched by the lives of every individual, each with a personal story and perspective.

The Cherry Hill School District is enriched by the commitment of the diverse members of the educational community, the people who are our “We.” If you are reading this letter, you are a member of the “We.” You are a member of our community. I encourage you to consider, as a member of this educational community, what can you do to improve and to enrich the opportunities and access to success for the children who are placed in our charge? There is no action too small or too insignificant should it benefit our children.

As we recognize and celebrate the Constitution, we celebrate each other and our community. Mrs. Tomasetti’s work with the student delegates at Kilmer Elementary School is indicative of the creativity and

Schools Closed

September 23

**Back to School Nights
(All begin at 7 pm
unless otherwise
noted)**

Beck 7th & 8th Grade -
September 21

Paine: September 24

Rosa 6th Grade -
September 24

Beck 6th Grade -
September 28

Cooper - September 30

Rosa 7th & 8th Grade -
September 30

Sharp Grades K-2: 7 pm;
Grades 3-5: 8 pm -
October 1

Harte Grades K-2: 6:30-
7:30 pm; Grades 3-5:
7:45-8:45 pm - October 1

West - October 1

Barclay - October 7

Mann - October 8

**Middle School
Committee
Community Forums**

These meetings will discuss the work of the Middle School Committee formed last spring. **Each forum covers the same topics, on 4 different dates at 4 different locations:**

commitment that our instructional staff have demonstrated with the opening of school for this academic year. Similar to work of the Founding Father's in Philadelphia in 1787, our teachers have been establishing relationships, challenging beliefs, and developing new understandings with their classes. I am grateful to work that our instructional staff, our instructional support staff, and our office staff have been doing to ensure that the academic year has had a seamless opening.

We the People. Three simple words that mean so much.

On behalf of the student body and the district staff, thank you for being a part of our "We," and for being committed to the success of our children.

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.](#) And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

October 6, 6:30 pm @
Beck Middle School

October 7, 11 am @
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

October 8, 6:30 pm @
Carusi Middle School

October 13, 6:30 pm @
Rosa Middle School



**Kilmer Elementary
Ratifies School
Constitution on
National
Constitution Day**

Students at Joyce Kilmer



**Cherry Hill East
Student's Artwork
Chosen for Pope
Visit Publicity**



**Sharp Elementary
Marks Patriot Day
with Music and
Reflections**

Students at Joseph D. Sharp

Elementary School experienced democracy in action on National Constitution Day September 17 when they ratified a Constitution of their own.

The process started in early September the classroom with the Kilmer teachers. Each class was given the task of developing a list of 3-5 rules based on the students' hopes, dreams and goals for the school year. Kilmer's 4th and 5th grade teachers selected 3 students from each of their classes to serve as delegates.

On September 11, the delegates met as a group for the first time to review the rules created by all K-5 classrooms. The delegates were given the responsibility of reading over all of the rules and finding common themes and ideas. From those rules, students and teachers created one school-wide list. The delegates liked the idea of the acronym BRAVE and wanted the rules to fit into that acronym. "Kilmer Cubs are B.R.A.V.E." stands for the first words in each of the school rules:

Be kind and caring.

Respect yourself, others, and the school environment.

Accept and celebrate classmates' differences.

Cherry Hill High School East senior Sarah Whitty is making a name for herself beyond the East community with her artwork. Sarah's drawing of Pope Francis, originally created for the web site of her parish, The Catholic Church of St. Mary, has been chosen by the Diocese of Camden for use on its web site and social media leading up to the Pope's Philadelphia visit on September 27. Sarah's work also attracted the attention of the [Cherry Hill Sun](#).

"I've been drawing for as long as I can remember," Sarah says. Formal lessons started when she was about six years old, and she has enjoyed art all through her years in the Cherry Hill Public Schools.

"Many of my teachers have been incredibly supportive of my artwork," she notes. "

Out of all of her teachers, Sarah says, her sophomore English teacher, Mrs. Susan Fox, was "very invested and supportive of my work. Sometimes I'll still see her around the school and she'll ask to see the latest art I've created."

Sarah's mother, Rita Whitty, gave her the original assignment to create artwork to help promote the Pope's upcoming visit via the web site of her home parish. Mrs. Whitty is the webmaster for the parish. Sarah chose to use

Elementary School observed Patriot Day with their traditional annual assembly on September 11. The assembly included music and reflections about the day and what it means.

In preparation for Patriot Day, fourth and fifth grade students were given a writing prompt at the beginning of the school year:

President Barack Obama said, "In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it." What changes would you like to happen in this country and how would you make them happen?

Students completed the writing prompt and submitted it to Principal Ric Miscioscia a week before the assembly. A small group of students was selected to read their work at the Patriot Day Assembly.

The school-wide assembly included reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing The Star Spangled Banner. Mr. Miscioscia gave a brief speech on why our country observes Patriot Day. Students then observed a moment of silence. Taps were performed by student trumpet players, pictured above.

Following the student essay readings, the entire student body sang You're a Grand Old Flag, My Country 'Tis of Thee, and America the Beautiful.

Value your education by making smart decisions.

Expect and nurture a safe environment that allows all students to do their best.

The culminating activity was the assembly on National Constitution Day, September 17, organized by teacher Mrs. Jennifer Tomasetti, pictured above. At the assembly, students ratified the Kilmer Constitution.

Clara Barton Elementary School also ratified its Constitution on National Constitution Day, following a similar process with student delegates. [You may view Barton's Constitution on the school web site.](#)

charcoal to create her drawing. She put a great deal of thought into the process.

"While (Pope Francis) is very humble, he also has a big presence," she explains. "He's very open and kind towards everyone he's come across, and he seems always willing to offer guidance and words of wisdom to anyone who needs it. That's what I was hoping to communicate in the drawing. I feel as though he does his best to be connected with the people of the world."

Sarah says she intends to continue her art beyond high school.

"I'm hoping to study animation or illustration in college," she says. "I'd love to be an animator – it's an amazing form of art."

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