

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



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of October 23, 2015

Service and Commitment

Cherry Hill thrives as result of the hard work

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Day

October 24, 11 am-2 pm,
Cherry Hill High School

and dedication of its people -- both in the school district and in the township at large.

During the nearly 40 years that I have lived here, I have learned and regularly been reminded that Cherry Hill Township is a thriving and diverse community of wonderful folks who consistently demonstrate their desire and their effort to enhance the environment through their actions.

At Board of Education Action Meeting this past week, the Board recognized the members of our district staff who have served 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years as District employees, pictured above. Their amazing dedication to their work, and of course to our students, is inspiring. It was my pleasure to be able to congratulate each of them. Special thanks went out to two of our crossing guards who, while employed by Cherry Hill Township, each have served students at Horace Mann and A. Russell Knight Elementary Schools for 50 years.

In my role as superintendent, I have been fortunate to meet with many groups who provide invaluable service through their commitment to our community. The Library Board, the religious leaders coalition, the leadership at the Cherry Hill Food Pantry, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Cherry Hill Education Foundation, the Cherry Hill Zone PTA, and our local elected officials – including Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt, Senator Beach, Mayor Cahn and the Cherry Hill Town Council, as well as the members of the Cherry Hill Board of Education – are beacons of light for all of us. These folks truly embody service and commitment and they provide tangible examples of how varied the manner through which the community can be impacted. Each group, each individual, adds something to Cherry Hill. Each group, each individual makes Cherry Hill a better place to live, to work, and to raise a family.

During the past few weeks, I participated in “Town Hall” style meetings at our six secondary schools (Beck, Carusi, Rosa, the Alternative High School, East & West), completing the cycle this afternoon at Beck Middle School. I left each one of the meetings in awe of the students with whom I had the opportunity to interact. The young men and women

East

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Cherry Hill High School West

Children's Show

Alice in Wonderland

October 30 @ 7 pm

October 31 @ 11 am &
3 pm

November 1 @ 1 pm

Return to Standard Time

November 1 - Set your clocks back one hour!

Schools Closed

November 5 & 6

were articulate and passionate about their experience in the school system. They were inspiring to me as they challenged me with ways to improve their schools. I am confident that these young leaders are learning the meaning of service and commitment during their school experience. Their contribution, on behalf of their peers and the students yet to arrive, is invaluable to the work that we do as educators.

With the myriad of opportunities to commit to serving, what have you chosen to be a part of in Cherry Hill? What talents, abilities, or interests do you have that will benefit and enrich our town and our district? Choose to be a positive part of Cherry Hill Township, choose to be a part of the Cherry Hill School District – join the PTA! Continue to provide our students with tangible models of how to be committed to service.

Check our [district calendar of events](#) and come to a game, or a concert, or a show.

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.



Lights on Afterschool Event Celebrates the Importance of After School Programs

The Cherry Hill School Aged Child Care program ([SACC](#)) celebrated "[Lights on Afterschool](#)" on Thursday, October 22 at SACC locations around the school district during their morning or afternoon programs. "Lights on Afterschool," is a nationwide event in its 15th year, celebrating after school programs and the important role they have in the lives of our children, families and communities.

This multi-location celebration included activities for the children who take part in SACC programs both before and after school. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche, as well as Board of Education President Carol Matlack and Board member Kathy Judge, attended the celebration at Bret Harte Elementary School, pictured above.

Also in attendance were Harte Principal Neil Burti, Township Councilwomen Carole Roskoph and Melinda Kane. Mayor Chuck Cahn presented a proclamation to SACC Coordinator Melissa Conklin, naming October



Red Ribbon Week Offers Fun Activities to Promote a Drug-Free Lifestyle

Launched in 1985, Red Ribbon Week serves as a catalyst to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. This year's Red Ribbon Week was October 19-23. Thanks to assistance from the Cherry Hill Alliance on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, students in all 19 of our schools learn, in an age-appropriate way, about how to prevent drug use and celebrate healthy living.

Among the most popular activities are skating parties sponsored by the Alliance, as shown in the photo above of the Carusi Red Ribbon Week Skating Party held on October 19. At Carusi, as at many schools, each day of Red Ribbon Week had a theme. The theme for October 21, for example, was "You have the POWER to be drug free," and students were encouraged to dress like their favorite superhero. Beck included a day called, "Relax with Sweats, Not Cigarettes," on October 22, when students wore sweats to school. For October 19,



Why I Love My School: James Johnson Elementary

Welcome to the newest regular department in CHPS Weekly, "Why I Love My School." Twice a month, a parent or student will tell us about what makes his or her school great. First up is Mrs. Janet Hung, parent of a first grader and a fifth grader at James Johnson Elementary School, located at 500 Kresson Road:

"Being a product of the Cherry Hill school system myself, I wanted my children to have a similar educational experience. My family and I love the sense of community and family that Johnson has given us.

"My children are excited to get on the bus to begin their day at Johnson, and hop off the bus with just as much enthusiasm to tell me about their day. They are filled with wonderful stories about the announcements the office has made, upcoming PTA events, what their friends had for lunch, what they did at recess, and every detail imaginable.

"Johnson is very parent-volunteer friendly. When my oldest was in kindergarten, I started volunteering. When my youngest began

22, 2015, School Age Child Care (SACC) Day.

SACC students at the Harte location displayed luminaries they made to represent the "Lights On" aspect of the event. They eagerly participated in making homemade "slime" after the presentation portion of the program.

[SACC](#) is a tuition-supported program sponsored by the Cherry Hill Board of Education. The program operates before and after school programs in each Cherry Hill elementary school from 7 - 8:45 am and 3:30 - 6 pm. It also provides Extended Day Child Care ([EDCC](#)) for kindergartners.

Rosa chose a theme of "I have the power to put drugs, alcohol, violence and bullying to sleep by sockin' it to 'em!" Students dressed up their your favorite PJs and craziest socks.

The week for middle schoolers culminated with the 7th & 8th grade Red Ribbon Dance, open to students from all three middle schools and held at Rosa.

At the high school level, Cherry Hill East planned a "Wear Red Day" for October 28, showing that students are "redy" (ready) to do away with substance abuse and violence.

Our elementary schools celebrated the week in a variety of ways. Thomas Paine, Bret Harte and Clara Barton Elementary Schools combined their Week of Respect and Ribbon Ribbon Week festivities.

Paine, for example, held an assembly with the themes, "Be More Awesome!" and "Love Others!" A slide show of the assembly is posted on [Paine's Instagram account](#).

kindergarten, I was able to become more involved in PTA activities, both as a volunteer and a chairperson, and to contribute more to the school.

"The teachers at Johnson offer a variety of opportunities for parents interact with their children and classmates. I have often read a book to the class during snack time and assisted with classroom projects. The conversation among 6-year-olds always brings a smile to my day.

"Johnson Field Day is a stand-out event that my children and I look forward to every year. Since it starts just after the school days begins, it is the one event of the year when parents can make time in their busy schedule, go to work a little later and come to watch their children for a while. The joy of the children as they wave to their parents on the sidelines is priceless.

"While change can be challenging at times, we do love how Johnson has evolved over the years. Our new principal, Jared Peltzman, also product of the Cherry Hill school system, has been a wonderful addition to the Johnson family. His energy and focus on the children, the school community -- and his desire to make Johnson Elementary the best it can be -- is admirable. He often tweets ([@JJESOWls](#)) pictures of activities that take place during the day, and I find myself looking forward to the next tweet to see what creative activities the teachers

have designed for the students, and the opportunities for learning and fun my children will have."

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