

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of February 6, 2015

Our Amistad Curriculum

As we celebrate Black History Month in the Cherry Hill Public Schools, we'd like to share the part of our curriculum through which our students learn about black history not only during the month of February, but throughout the school year at each grade level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5th Grade Information Nights

Carusi
February 10, 7 pm

Beck

The Amistad Curriculum grew out of the Amistad Commission Law (A1301), which was passed in New Jersey in 2002. This law calls on New Jersey schools to incorporate African American history into their social studies curriculum. This means that students are offered education and awareness programs in several areas:

- African slave trade
- Slavery in America
- The vestiges of slavery in this country
- The contributions of African Americans in building our country

The Amistad Commission's goal is to "change the landscape for the study of United States and world history by placing Africans and African Americans at the center of the narrative as agents rather than as bystander or victims," according to the Commission's vision statement.

Teaching any curriculum always requires the use of age-appropriate texts and materials. Book titles in use in the Cherry Hill Public Schools include *Martin's Big Words* for grade 1; *The Story of Ruby Bridges* for grade 2; and *In Daddy's Arms* for grade 4, just to name a few. In our high schools, the film *12 Years a Slave* now may be used as a teaching tool. To aid in conveying the meaning of these materials, the District provides teachers with professional development and online resources where teaching units are outlined and specific teaching strategies are made available.

[You may view the New Jersey Amistad Commission web page on the New Jersey Department of Education web site by clicking here.](#)

All of our district news, including the departments in our former "e-news" – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News - is available [by clicking here](#). Check our [Activities Calendar](#) on the [District web site](#) for updates about upcoming events and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You'll find the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 District Calendars [here](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

And please keep [sending us any news](#) about what's happening in the District!

February 17, 7 pm

[Jazz Showcase](#)

All Middle & High School
Jazz Bands @ Rosa Gym
February 12, 7 pm

[Snow Make-Up Day](#)

February 16

[Negotiations Meeting](#)

February 17

We wish you a warm and relaxing weekend.

Sincerely



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



Schools Embrace Black History Month Events

February is Black History Month, and schools around the District have held events and will continue to celebrate throughout the month.

The Black Broadway Theater Group kicked off the month with their production of the original musical, "Legacy," on January 31 at Cherry Hill High School East. The event coincided



Cherry Hill Guidance Department Helps Keep Students on Course

February 2-6 is National School Counseling Week, and the Cherry Hill Public Schools' counselors are more than deserving of "thanks" for all they do.

"I always use the word 'phenomenal' to describe the guidance staff," says Jim Riordan, director of guidance, pictured above. "I am fortunate. I'm quite removed



Photo/Marcy Feld

Photography

Where Are They Now?

For writer Nancy Krulik, pictured above, growing up in Cherry Hill has provided great fodder for her books – now numbering more than 150, including three New York Times bestsellers.

The Cherry Hill High School West graduate ('79) moved to Cherry Hill from Brooklyn when she was in third grade, attending

with the fourth annual Sankofa Marketplace, featuring local African American businesses, including jewelry, hair care, fashion and treats.

This week, schools put up displays such as the one outside the main office at Kingston Elementary School, pictured above, to celebrate the achievements of black men and women throughout history and in today.

Clara Barton Elementary School hosted an African American read-in on February 4, where guest readers shared with the students books about African Americans.

Woodcrest Elementary School will host guest presenter Cathy Jenkins of the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association in late February.

And the [Lest We Forget Black Holocaust Slavery Museum and Traveling Exhibit](#) will make appearances at Carusi Middle School (February 17), Beck Middle School (tentatively February 18) and Cherry Hill High School East (February 19). The exhibit was developed to increase awareness of the impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Founded in 2002, the museum and exhibit's name comes from this quote from Dr. Martin

from them physically [because of his office at the Alternative High School, where he also serves as principal], but I can count on every single one of them, every day. It all runs as if I'm right there with them."

Mr. Riordan points to the guidance staff's sense of professionalism, collaboration and support for one another as key reasons all 38 of them -- spread out among our 19 schools -- work so well together.

"From the time our students come into school, the counselors are focused on their success," he says.

"When a student begins fifth grade, his or her counselor is focused on that student's success and ultimately getting that student to college. Then the middle school counselors focus on getting their students to college. And that continues, of course, through high school."

Counselors today are faced with challenges different from even five years ago, Mr. Riordan notes.

"Our counselors have become much more involved in the students' mental health," he says, "and the needs are increasing."

Mr. Riordan points to the counseling team's dedication to communication as a key to what makes the department effective. In addition to "Insight," the guidance newsletter published three times a year, a newly updated, user-

Joyce Kilmer Elementary School the first year it opened. "My memories of elementary school are very vivid," says Ms. Krulik. "All of my fiction writing is based on my growing up and my kids' growing up."

Ms. Krulik's books include the [How I Survived Middle School series](#), in which she named the middle school "Joyce Kilmer Middle School." Her character Katie Kazoo, from Ms. Krulik's [Katie Kazoo Switcheroo book series](#), goes to Cherrydale Elementary School -- a takeoff on Cherry Hill. And the plot of one book revolves around "Science Camp," based on Ms. Krulik's experience at Mt. Misery.

Ms. Krulik attended Brainerd Middle School (now Carusi) and went on to Cherry Hill West, where she recalls learning from "great" teachers and being heavily involved in Theater Workshop. "I was a lousy actress," she says with a laugh. "But taking on characters all day long is incredibly valuable to gaining skills as a writer. I've always written, and Theater Workshop helped tremendously in developing characters and stories."

After high school graduation, Ms. Krulik earned her degree in investigative reporting from Temple University. She went on to discover that

Luther King, Jr., "The Genocide of some 50 to 100 million African men, women and children, and the enslavement of millions of others, is the Black Holocaust."

friendly guidance eboard on each high school web site is available to parents.

The guidance departments at Cherry Hill High Schools East ([@CHEGuidance](#)) and West ([@CHWGuidance](#)) now use Twitter as a means of communication as well. And counselors are required to make positive phone calls to parents on a regular basis.

"Parents' reaction to these calls has been great," Mr. Riordan says. "Usually they assume if a counselor is calling, there must be a problem. We like to reach out with positive messages."

Also important, Mr. Riordan points out, is the department's commitment to face-to-face interaction. "We are one of the only school districts in the state to have evening guidance hours once a month," he says. "Being able to offer parents face-to-face communication, during hours when they don't have to miss work, is very important."

she loved writing fiction. "My sweet spot is writing chapter books and middle grade books," she says.

Several years ago, Ms. Krulik, who lives in Manhattan, enjoyed meeting local young readers when she spoke at Kilmer Elementary. "It looked tiny," she said of the school, which had loomed large in her memory, "but I could still picture everything. I still knew where the all-purpose room was, where the library was. It was a lot of fun."

Ms. Krulik's advice to aspiring writers? "Read and read and read and read!" she says. "The best writers read all types of literature."

Another piece of advice: Keep a journal. "One plot came from a dream I wrote down as soon as I woke up," Ms. Krulik says. "I don't always use my journal entries right away, but they tend to show up in my stories eventually."

*Interested in seeing someone you know featured in *Where Are They Now?* [Send us a brief description and contact information.](#)*

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