

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of February 20, 2015

The Importance of the PTA

The anniversary of the founding of the National Parents Teachers Association (PTA) was this week – the perfect time to recognize the great work of our PTA members in the Cherry Hill Public Schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5th Grade
Information Nights

Beck

February 23, 7 pm

[BOE Action Meeting](#)

February 17, 2015 marked the 118th anniversary of the founding of the National PTA, originally named the National Congress of Mothers. The National PTA is now the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States and has established programs and called for legislation to improve children's lives, including:

- The creation of kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Public health service
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- The juvenile justice system
- Mandatory immunization
- Arts in education
- School safety

The PTA members in the Cherry Hill Public Schools have been equally influential over the years. Our school PTAs work at their buildings year round to provide programs and assemblies, communications and beautification inside and outside the buildings for students and their families. Not only that, but the District-wide Zone PTA – made up of the PTA presidents from each school as well as some additional school PTA officers – works closely with me and the administration, providing a voice for all 19 schools. Cherry Hill Zone PTA committees include:

- Arts in Education
- Board of Education
- Budget
- Bylaws
- Community Outreach
- Character Education
- Education
- Health & Safety
- Legislation
- Grants

These committees take action on the latest issues affecting the Cherry Hill Public Schools community. Current work is focusing on topics such as state funding for our schools, PARCC testing, and the implementation of the “Smart Snacks” nutrition standards, among others.

I attend each monthly Zone PTA meeting to answer

February 24, 7 pm

[Cherry Hill High School East's Production of *Anything Goes*](#)

February 27 & 28
and March 6 & 7, 7:30 pm

March 1 & 8, 2 pm

questions that Zone members recount from conversations with their PTA members. These discussions are thoughtful and productive, giving all of us an opportunity to address issues of concern to our school community. Presenters from the District and from the community also are regular guests at the Zone meetings. Among the more recent presentations and Q & A sessions have been:

- The District's PARCC implementation team, Dr. Joe Meloche, Assistant Superintendent/K-12, Dr. Farrah Mahan, Director of Curriculum, and Dr. Karen Russo, Teacher Coordinator K-12
- Our Public Information Officer, Mrs. Barbara Wilson, regarding our many means of communication in the District
- Officer Renee Houlihan, Cherry Hill Police Department, regarding drug use and prevention among students

Our PTA members are essential to the success of our schools and our students. We thank them for their work and collaboration.

To keep up with our district news, including the departments in our former "e-news" – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News - [please click 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 continue to [send us any news](#) about what's happening in the District!

Sincerely,



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



Donate Your Recycle Bank Points for School Success

The deadline of March 16, 2015 is fast approaching for families to donate their Recyclebank points toward the Green Schools Program, in which several Cherry Hill schools are enrolled.

Bret Harte, Clara Barton, J.F. Cooper and Joyce Kilmer Elementary Schools, as well as Henry C. Beck Middle School all are registered with Recyclebank to receive donated points toward grant projects.

To see a description of their projects and to donate your points, simply go to recyclebank.com and either log in to your existing account, or sign up for an account if don't already have one. Click on the link labeled "The Recyclebank Green Schools Program," and you will be guided through the donation process, step by step.

Cherry Hill High School East has reached its goal of collecting Recyclebank points to fund its program of continued reduction of single-use disposable plastics. To promote the continued use of reusable



Carusi Middle School Earns 8th Grade Character Award

The Camden County 8th Grade Character award was presented to Carusi Middle School on February 19, 2015 at the County Freeholder's Meeting.

The award is made possible by the Camden County Vocational Schools, Camden County College, and the Camden County Board of Freeholders.

Carusi Middle School won the award based on the high level of commitment the school staff, students and community have for inspiring great character. Students at Carusi Middle School are truly Caring, Academic, Responsible, Unparalleled Students, with Integrity. This is demonstrated by the many random acts of kindness and commitment to helping others.

Pictured above (from left), Carusi Principal Dr. John Cafagna, 8th grade student Janiah Overton, Carusi Assistant Principal



East French Exchange Program Celebrates 25 Years

Cherry Hill High School East French students, teachers and parents gathered Friday, February 20, 2015 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the French Exchange Program.

The program gives East students the opportunity both to host students from Lycee Paul Lapie-Courbevoie, a high school in France, and to travel there to experience French culture.

Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn, as well as Assistant Superintendent/K-12, Dr. Joseph Meloche, and Cherry Hill Board of Education President Carol Matlack, also attended the celebration. Mayor Cahn received a letter of appreciation, read by Monsieur Jean-Pierre Gross, from Courbevoie Mayor Jacques Kossowski. The Mayor, pictured above (second from left), in turn presented Monsieur Gross (second from right) with a key to Cherry Hill, to take back to Mayor Kossowski.

French teachers and exchange coordinators Dr.

containers for water as opposed to single-use disposable water bottles, East currently uses a water filtration system that keeps track of how many plastics water bottles are being kept out of the landfill. The grant will maintain the filtration system and educate the school community and other schools in the district about the importance of using reusable containers.

Mrs. Kelly McKenzie and Assistant Superintendent/K-12 Dr. Joseph Meloche proudly recieved the award and \$500 check on behalf of Carusi Middle School.

Congratulations, Carusi Mustangs!

Eileen Lynch (above, left) and Mrs. Kristen Phillips (above, right) thanked the Cherry Hill East host parents for their efforts. The students from France will soon wrap up their 11-day stay in Cherry Hill. Cherry Hill East students will travel to Courbevoie during Spring Break for their own cultural experience.

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