



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of May 8, 2015

Volunteers Plant School Gardens for Beauty and Community Outreach

This season, students, parents, community members and staff help get our gardens growing.

During the last few weeks, the green spaces around our schools have been abloom as the warmer spring weather

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOE Work Session

May 12, 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

settled in for the season. In addition to the gorgeous cherry trees lining Chapel Avenue in front of Joyce Kilmer Elementary School and Cherry Hill High School West, you may have noticed that many of our buildings have freshly planted flowers out front – or you may have been asked to help with an upcoming “Beautification Day” at your school or schools.

We believe that a welcoming entry and grounds are an important part of setting a positive tone for our students, their families and our staff as they enter and exit our buildings every day. In addition to improving our buildings’ “curb appeal,” many of our volunteer gardeners also work on establishing school vegetable gardens this time of year. At the Alternative High School, for example, students not only have planted flowers in the front of the school and in the side entrance window box, but they have transformed the courtyard into a patio and vegetable garden. Vegetables harvested from the garden over the summer will be donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry.

Other vegetable gardens are taking shape at Johnson Elementary School, Beck Middle School (with 18 gardens!), Rosa International Middle School and Cherry Hill High Schools East and West. In fact, Beck is looking for parents to help maintain their many vegetable gardens over the summer. Please see the story, “Calling All Gardeners,” below left, for more information about becoming involved.

Weekend beautification projects spearheaded by our PTAs include last Saturday, May 2, at A. Russell Knight Elementary School, and this Saturday, May 9, at Horace Mann Elementary School. At J.F. Cooper Elementary School, volunteers planted red tulip bulbs last fall in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. Those tulips were in full bloom by the last week of April.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the beautification of our schools and to the learning process and community outreach involved in our vegetable garden projects. To see some photos of our volunteers’ efforts, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

We wish everyone a Happy Mother’s Day, whether you are celebrating your own mother or someone who has been like

Memorial Day

May 25

SCHOOLS CLOSED

BOE Action Meeting

May 26, 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Superintendent Search: Parent & Community Focus Groups

June 3, 7 pm

Board Room, Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

June 9, 1 pm

Tech Lab, Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

a mother to you.

Sincerely,



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

P.S. 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 don't forget to [send us any news](#) about what's happening in the District!



Calling All Gardeners

In case you haven't noticed while driving down the aptly named Cropwell Road, for the last four years Beck Middle School has grown and maintained an 18-bed organic garden, pictured above. During the school year, this garden is planted and tended by Beck students. This year, students decided to “go green” on Saint Patrick's Day by planting seeds in grow labs at the school.



Harte Students Get Out the Vote for "Women on 20s"

Four third graders at Bret Harte Elementary School are leading an effort to get a woman's picture on the \$20 bill. Anna DeMarco, Site Leader at Bret Harte Elementary School PM SACC, is overseeing the girls' effort to boost the Women On 20's initiative.

The group wants to make an historic change by convincing President Obama that now is



Where Are They Now?

For 1982 Cherry Hill High School West graduate Robin Olin, Cherry Hill truly is “home.” Having moved to Cherry Hill as a third-grader, Mrs. Olin left the township only briefly early in her marriage. She and her husband soon bought a house in Cherry Hill and chose to raise their family here.

Having celebrated National

These seeds soon will be planted in the garden.

Beck students typically plant cold weather crops like radishes, kale, lettuces, Swiss chard and beets. These vegetables are harvested in June before the students leave for the summer. In the past, students and staff have had salad or veggie parties – often, the produce is donated to local food banks.

In the summer, Beck parents have stepped up to maintain the garden. This year, Beck is expanding this opportunity to all Cherry Hill families - especially those in Fox Hollow, Fox Hollow Woods and Rams Gate because they live so close to the garden. This gives the community an opportunity to plant some crops over the summer while maintaining the look of the garden.

The 18 raised beds with mushroom compost available to Cherry Hill families for their use from June 15 until September 8. There is a rain barrel collection system and a water source (in case we run out of rain water) that gardeners may access. The Beck community's only request is that the garden be kept organic; no pesticides of any kind may be used.

Please email Ramona Bregatta at

the time to put a woman's face on our paper currency. Four inspiring American women heroes have been nominated to appear on the \$20 bill by the year 2020 - the 100th anniversary of women securing the right to vote. The nominees are: Eleanor Roosevelt, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller.

With support from Principal Dr. Neil Burti, the girls, pictured with Dr. Burti above, hosted a third grade assembly on Wednesday, May 6, in which each girl represented a nominee.

Portraying the nominees were Alaina Farber as Eleanor Roosevelt, Isabella Bardunias as Harriet Tubman, Gianna Grossman as Rosa Parks, and Carli Pease as Wilma Mankiller. The girls also brought awareness to this historic cause during morning announcements on Friday and answered questions about their candidate during the lunch period.

Please join the girls' effort and vote for your favorite nominee by this Sunday, May 10 on <http://www.womenon20s.org/>.

School Nurse Day this week, it seems only fitting to feature Mrs. Olin in this month's "Where Are They Now" - she has served as the school nurse at J.F. Cooper Elementary School, for the last 15 years. She is only the second nurse to work at Cooper since the school opened in 1971.

Mrs. Olin's elementary years were spent at Kingston, middle years at Brainerd Junior High School (now Carusi), and high school at West. She went on to earn her bachelor of nursing degree at Trenton State, followed by a masters in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. After working for 13 1/2 years in adult critical care and then 10 years in the pediatric ICU department, Mrs. Olin earned her school nurse certificate at TCNJ and took the job at Cooper in January 2000.

Mrs. Olin and her husband, who is not from Cherry Hill, are happily raising their two children here. She remembers her school years fondly. "I had a great group of teachers all the way through," she recalls. "Life was simpler for kids then - there wasn't as much pressure."

The transition to working in the same school district she attended as a student was not difficult.

"I love my job," Mrs. Olin says. "If I could give advice to the students

rbregatta@chclc.org to reserve your spot for this summer.

growing up now, it would be, 'Don't be afraid to try new things; it's OK to struggle.' I have a sign next to my office door that says, 'Childhood is a journey, not a race,'" she says. "I really believe that."

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

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