

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of November 14, 2014

Honoring Our Veterans

November 11, Veterans Day, was commemorated in a variety of ways in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Local veterans from several eras contributed to helping our students learn more about what it means to serve our country.

The Cherry Hill Public Schools extend their gratitude to those who have served our country. Our students

UPCOMING EVENTS

**High School Marking
Period Ends**

November 14

**Middle School Report
Cards Issued**

welcomed the opportunity this week to learn from those who have served in various branches of the military over the years. We are fortunate to have a student organization, Cherry Hill High School West's Patriot Club, which helped facilitate day-long programs of veterans speaking to students at all three of our middle schools. The programs, which took place on Veteran's Day and the days surrounding it, featured veterans who served in a variety of wars, from World War II to the war in Iraq.

Also on Veteran's Day, Stockton Elementary School fifth graders took part in a special flag-raising of an American flag given to the school by Lt. David Teufel. The flag was carried aboard a USAF C-130 aircraft during special missions over Iraq and Kuwait during Operation Enduring Freedom. Corpsman Ira Nicholson, who served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat, helped with the flag-raising and spoke with the students.

Classes from Bret Harte Elementary School observed Veteran's Day by writing letters to the brave men and women serving in the Middle East. The letters were given to Operation Yellow Ribbon of South Jersey. The organization will share the letters with the troops to help boost their morale while they are away from their loved ones. You may learn more about [Operation Yellow Ribbon by visiting their web site.](#)

Woodcrest Elementary School fourth graders did the Constitutional Walking Tour and saw the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia on Veteran's Day, as a reminder of the freedoms our veterans fought to protect. You may see photos from some of these events by [clicking here](#). Video of the flag presentation at Stockton is available on the new [Cherry Hill Public Schools YouTube channel](#).

Our new [YouTube channel](#) is one more way we're able to share what's going on around the District. Check in often to see videos from various performances and events.

November 14

Cherry Hill West Fall Show: The Breakfast Club

November 14, 7pm;
November 15, 2 pm
and 7 pm

PARCC Primer Series

Cherry Hill East Auditorium,
December 8, 7 pm

Cherry Hill West New
Auditorium, December 10,
7 pm

*(See article at lower left for
details.)*

Order now: Cherry Hill Education Foundation's Cherry Hill-opoly Game

Cherry Hill-opoly, a board game showcasing the Township of Cherry Hill and the Cherry Hill Public Schools in the traditional Monopoly® format, is now available to order. All proceeds will be used by the Foundation to fund grants in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Games are \$40 each. [Click for more information and an order form.](#)

We enjoy seeing all of our students fulfill their potential and take pride in spreading the word about the accomplishments of our alumni. To that end, we've started a new monthly feature in this newsletter called "Where Are They Now?" You may read the latest installment of this series in the column at right, below, featuring Cherry Hill High School West graduate ('94) – and now Broadway star – Aaron Lazar.

Please [keep sending us any news](#) about what's happening around our district. You'll find all of our district news, including the departments in our former "e-news" – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News – [by clicking here](#). Check our [Activities Calendar](#) on the [District web site](#) for updates about upcoming events and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest District information. For easy access to all of the media listed above, be sure to download our free [District App](#).

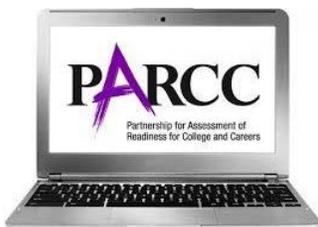
Thank you again to all of our veterans!

Sincerely,



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



"PARCC Primer" Series Answers Your Questions about PARCC

As curiosity about the upcoming PARCC assessments grows, the Cherry Hill Public Schools



CHPS Bond Refinancing Saves Taxpayers Money

The Cherry Hill School District recently refinanced its existing bonds, saving Cherry Hill taxpayers \$1.2 million over the next four



Where Are They Now?

will be sponsoring "PARCC Primer," a series of community discussions about this new assessment process.

The first program will be offered in December in two identical sessions: one on December 8, 2014 at Cherry Hill High School East's Auditorium at 7 pm; the other on December 10, 2014 at Cherry Hill High School West's New Auditorium at 7 pm

Dr. Joseph Meloche, Assistant Superintendent/K-12, Dr. Farrah Mahan, Director of Curriculum, and Dr. Karen Russo, Teacher Coordinator K-12, will facilitate the program.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets to participate in taking a portion of the PARCC test. A question & answer session also will be part of the evening.

[Click here for a flyer with dates for future sessions.](#)

years. The District had about \$16.5 million in long-term debt that was to expire in 2019. Bond market conditions were favorable for the District to refinance and achieve a savings of approximately 8.2 percent.

The state requires Boards of Education to refund existing callable bonds if a 3 percent net present value savings can be achieved.

Because this money is in the debt service fund, it goes to the District's debt service payment, not the general fund.

The District has very low outstanding debt, especially for its size. As a result, the District will be debt-free in 2019.

More details about the refunding will be discussed in the Annual Audit Report of the District's financial records and activities, which will be presented at the Board of Education Action Meeting on November 25, 2014 at 7 pm in Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace.

This month, Cherry Hill High School West graduate Aaron Lazar took time out of his busy Broadway rehearsal schedule to tell us what he's been doing since graduating in 1994.

Mr. Lazar spent his K-12 years in the Cherry Hill Schools, first at Joyce Kilmer Elementary, then Carusi Middle School, and finally Cherry Hill West. After graduation, he attended Duke University with the intention of going to medical school. "Instead, I graduated with a BA in music and a minor in premed, and then went to the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music to get an MFA in musical theater," he says. "Life is beautiful in its unpredictability!"

Mr. Lazaar earned the role of understudy to the lead in the Broadway National Tour of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* only months after moving to New York City after finishing his MFA. From there, he played a number of roles on Broadway and received a Drama Desk Award Nomination for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical for his performance as Enjolras in *Les Misérables*. He also has appeared in several feature films, including the recent *Wolf of Wall Street* and *This Is Where I Leave You*. He appeared on the television show *The Good*

Wife last season in the pivotal episode, "The Last Call."

Currently, Mr. Lazar is starring in the new Broadway musical *The Last Ship*. "We have a creative dream team starting with Sting as our composer and lyricist," he explains. "It's a personal story about the community he grew up in - a shipyard town in Wallsend, England. And I feel honored to be a part of it."

In addition to rehearsals, he says, "I try to hit the gym to stay in 'show-shape.' The rigors of a six-day-a-week/8-show-a-week schedule are demanding and it's important to stay healthy." Mr. Lazar spends his spare with his family.

Mr. Lazar says he has fond memories of growing up in Cherry Hill. "I look back on my time in the Cherry Hill public school system with such joy," he says. "The classrooms, the playgrounds, the teachers, friends...the education, whether in the classroom, on a field, or on stage...It was a wonderful time."

He will, he says, "forever be in debt to the amazing teachers" he had over the years. "Truly, I cherish all of the teachers I was lucky enough to study with."

As for Mr. Lazar's plans for the future, he says he will continue to work as an actor and a singer, as a

husband and a father – “to grow and never stop learning.”

Asked if he has any advice for students now, he says, “Find you. Be you. There's no one like you. Be patient and enjoy the limitless possibilities that are your future.”

Adam Lazaar will appear in a special, one-night-only concert, “Look for Me in the Songs,” on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7 pm at Sensational Host Caterers (3030 Route 73 N., Maple Shade). [You may find details about the show by clicking here.](#)

Tickets are still available through the [Cherry Hill Education Foundation web site.](#)

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

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