

# CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of December 19, 2014

## Holiday Giving

In the Cherry Hill Public Schools, we like to emphasize the spirit of giving during the holiday season. Our students and staff offer great examples of that spirit in action.

The holiday season is upon us in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Many among us celebrate this time of year by exchanging gifts, hosting and attending holiday celebrations,

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Early Dismissal

December 23

High Schools: 11:45 am

Middle Schools: 12:15 pm

PreK-Grade 5: 1 pm

and enjoying some well-deserved time off with family and friends. But before our students and staff scatter for our Winter Recess, many have made it a point to give their time and their resources to others.

Multiple schools around the District have conducted canned food drives and personal care item collection efforts for charities such as the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. Some of these efforts started as early as September, as explained in the story below (left) about Clara Barton Elementary School's "Barton Gives Back" program. Cherry Hill High School East is running its annual Toys for Tots Drive, as are other schools at the middle and elementary levels. Cherry Hill High School West recently wrapped up its food drive, and West's Spanish Club hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Mi Casita Day Care Christmas Party, highlighted in the story below (center).

Both high schools come together for the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) holiday party for children with special needs. Our student musicians also give their time and talents throughout the holiday season – some even during Winter Recess – to perform for various community events at multiple venues, as explained in the story below (right).

We would like to thank our Cherry Hill Schools parents for helping facilitate this atmosphere of giving with their own time and resources, not only during this season, but all throughout the year.

With only one full day and one early dismissal day comprising next week, CHPS Weekly will be on hiatus until January 9. Look for all of the New Year news in that issue, as well as our next installment of "Where Are They Now?" when we'll catch up with another Cherry Hill Schools alumnus. As a reminder, the 2015-2016 District Calendar is available for viewing on the web site by [clicking here](#). Our middle and high school graduation dates are available [here](#).

Please keep those [emails](#) about the accomplishments of the students and staff of the Cherry Hill Schools coming! 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

## Winter Recess

Schools Closed  
December 24-January 1

## Teacher In-Service

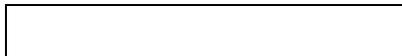
No Classes for Students  
January 2, 2015

## Classes Resume

January 5, 2015

to all of the media listed above, be sure to download our free [District App](#). Our [YouTube channel](#) will be chock full of concert videos from around the District in the New Year – be sure to take a look.

Happy Holidays to all!



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



### **Barton Gives Back**

The Clara Barton School community began a new program this year called Barton Gives Back. Barton Gives Back is a monthly program that encourages Barton students and their families - especially while they enjoy a variety of fun social events - to remember and support people in their community who are in need.

Each month the Barton students are invited to participate in one or more activities, including movie night, a school dance, school spirit dress-up days and more. While



### **West Reaches out with Mi Casita Party**

As is their annual tradition, the Cherry Hill High School West's Spanish Club brought the holiday spirit to the Mi Casita Day Care Center in Camden this year. Mi Casita provides free day care to children whose parents are experiencing financial trouble. Early education and regular meals are a part of the program.

The West Spanish club makes gifts



### **Musical Groups Spread Holiday Cheer**

For the musical groups in our Cherry Hill high schools, the holiday season means performing in more than just their school's winter concerts. Our instrumental and vocal music students maintain a busy schedule of "gigs" all over the community.

One event that provides our singers with great visibility is the Township Christmas tree and Menorah lighting

the students enjoy these events, they are encouraged to donate food and personal care items for those in need. The donated items are organized and packed by students, such as those pictured above, to take to the the Cherry Hill Food Pantry, which serves people in our own community.

In September, Barton Gives Back collected nearly 200 items.

October brought in 213 items and November's events brought in an impressive 321 items! The Barton community is eager to continue making those collection numbers grow.

More information about the Cherry Hill Food Pantry is available on their website  
<http://www.cherryhillfoodpantry.org/>

using donations for the children at Mi Casita. The club also delivers gifts donated by West staff members.

The Mi Casita party provides West students with the opportunity to speak Spanish with the children at the day center and to learn first hand the merits of giving back to the community.

The high school students also experience the excitement of the little ones as they enter the large lobby where the West students wait to distribute the gifts.

Now in its twentieth year, the Mi Casita Christmas Party is an event that organizers look forward to each year - at least as much as the young children who benefit from its outreach.

ceremony, held each year at the Carman Tilelli Community Center in early December. This year, the Belles of East, pictured above, sang, as did the West Chamber Singers. You may read more about the event in this story on [cherryhillsun.com](http://cherryhillsun.com)

The District's high school instrumental groups take on a variety of musical assignments as well, including Cherry Hill West's Jazz Combo's performance at the lighting of the large Menorah in the Barclay Farm Shopping Center.

Our a cappella music groups also sing at nursing homes during the season. Members of the community also can enjoy tableside seranades by these groups at venues including Caffè Aldo Lamberti, Adelphia and The Mansion on Main Street throughout December, including Winter Recess.

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