

A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill
Public Schools.



Widespread public access to knowledge,
like public education, is one of the pillars
of our democracy, a guarantee that we
can maintain a well-informed citizenry.

Scott Turow

CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending October 20, 2017

Information and Transparency

Resources abound for community members interested in what is happening in our school district. Awareness about and engagement with these resources is key to obtaining reliable information.

It's been a big week for reports and the sharing of information in the Cherry Hill Public Schools, and the fact that you are reading this letter indicates your desire to be an informed stakeholder in our district. If you follow social media at all, you'll sometimes see posts – including posts from our CHPS platforms – introduced with the acronym “ICYM,” short for “in case you missed it.” The headline on this letter could indeed read “ICYM,” as I will be giving a recap of the information shared this week and now available online for those who missed it. But the more appropriate title is “Information and Transparency,” as I'd like to talk a bit about the dissemination of information and transparency in what we do.

In recent years, we have expanded our means of communication in the Cherry Hill Public Schools to include not only this newsletter, but four social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)), an expanded [District web site](#) with the Q&A feature, [Quick Question](#), a live monthly broadcast called “[Online Lunch with the Superintendent](#)” with an opportunity to submit questions, and [26 in-person “Coffee with the Superintendent” meetings](#) to discuss our long range strategic plan and the upcoming bond referendum on September 25, 2018. Additionally, our [Board Work Sessions and Action Meetings](#) are open to the public and [broadcast live](#), then [archived on our YouTube channel](#) for later viewing. All [Board committee meetings](#), with the exception of Human Resources, are open to the public as well. I continue to invite you to stay informed via all of these resources. And if you are not finding the information you seek, I encourage you to submit a [Quick Question](#) or [email me directly](#).

This week's Board of Education Action Meeting on October 17 featured [presentations on the results from the 2017 PARCC testing](#) and the [2016-2017 Violence, Vandalism, Weapons and Substance Abuse Report](#). As with any analyses, these reports

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting](#)

Nov 6 @ 6 pm

Barclay Early Childhood
Center, 1220 Winston Way

[Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting](#)

Nov 6 @ 7 pm

Barclay Early Childhood
Center, 1220 Winston Way

[Election Day](#)

Nov 7

Vote!

[Business & Facilities Committee Meeting](#)

Nov 8 @ 6 pm

Barclay Early Childhood
Center, 1220 Winston Way

[Strategic Planning Committee Meeting](#)

Nov 8 @ 7 pm

Barclay Early Childhood
Center, 1220 Winston Way

[Board of Education Work Session](#)

Nov 14 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

[SCHOOLS CLOSED](#)

Nov 23 & 24

[Board of Education Action Meeting](#)

Nov 28 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo

show us our strengths, and areas where we can improve. We already are taking steps toward those improvements. The reports also provide a statistical framework for informed discussion, and I encourage you to refer to the reports themselves and to [the video from my Online Lunch](#) with Mr. Tony Saporito, our Director of Security, rather than relying on rumors or social media chatter.

Rumors and chatter on social media are an interesting part of modern life. There is a tendency, if information on social media receives enough “likes,” that readers will accept it as fact without researching the information presented or its source. I often caution people about the social media posts and conversations they see because of the “whisper-down-the-lane” effect of social media chatter. Another analogy that comes to mind is the story of “The Emperor’s New Clothes.” The Emperor demands new clothes and is given an imaginary suit to wear. His subjects fawn over the “clothes” as he parades around in them, until a child calls out that he is wearing none. A social media post designed to attract attention and “likes” – like the Emperor’s new clothes – may have no substance at all, in spite of many people clicking “like” in agreement. Let’s remember, too, that our children (especially our older children) are likely watching our online behavior. Would we blame them for calling out bad behavior, just as the child called out in the story?

Please continue to seek your information about the District and our schools directly from the source. Please keep your online presence kind and respectful. Share a kind word and a smile in person whenever possible. Words matter – whether written or spoken.

I am traveling to Washington, DC tomorrow morning, to see our schools receive their National Schools of Character Awards! Cherry Hill continues to be a leader in New Jersey and in the country in our approach to education. On the journey to Washington, DC, I particularly enjoy the view as I cross the Millard E. Tydings Memorial Bridge, which spans the Susquehanna River. The changing leaves, the powerful river, and the blue sky are always hopeful and engaging.

I wish you a lovely weekend.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Barclay Early Childhood Center Holds Annual Pumpkin Patch

The Barclay Early Childhood Center PTA on October 19 held its annual Pumpkin Patch for all students.

As pictured above, all classes throughout the day were given the opportunity to pick out a pumpkin provided by the PTA via Cheyenne's Road Market. Each student took home the pumpkin of his or her choice.



Kilmer 5th Graders to Perform at Kimmel Center

Members of the 5th grade chorus at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School will perform in the "[Peace Benefit Concert - A Musical Journey of Unity and Harmony](#)" on Sunday, [November 5 at 5 pm at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.](#)

The event includes many musical groups, embracing cultural diversity as the groups unite through music.

[Harmony for Peace](#) connects young musicians performing with international artists spreading the message of "hope and love for tomorrow."



Holiday Child Care Available to all CHPS Elementary Students

The Cherry Hill Public Schools offers child care through the Student Enrichment Program (STEP) for all CHPS elementary school students when school is closed for certain holidays. **Children do not have to attend School Aged Child Care (SACC) to attend STEP Holiday Child Care.**

STEP Holiday Child Care is open from 7 am to 6 pm for the holidays of November 9 & 10; February 16; March 16; and April 2-6.

You must register your child in the STEP office at Cooper Elementary School, 1960 Greentree Road, no later than 5 business days prior to the date(s) you select.

Details and registration forms are available on the [STEP Holiday Child Care page of the District web site.](#)

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