

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



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending March 31, 2017

# Hate Has No Home in CHPS

**We've joined Cherry Hill Township to spread the word that our community is dedicated to inclusiveness and embracing diversity.**

One of the ongoing messages I've repeated this school year is, "Words matter." And while I continue to believe that words matter and strive to model positive, encouraging, constructive speech every day, I would like to expand that mantra to include, "Actions matter."

Our community has faced some challenging events this year, both within the Cherry Hill Public Schools and in the larger community of Cherry Hill Township. One of the most recent challenges was a [threat a few weeks ago against the Katz JCC](#). This was one of many similar threats orchestrated across the country on the same day. Our community immediately rose up to defy that threat – to say that we will not tolerate threats or hatred of any sort directed at any group or individual. Within a few days, Cherry Hill residents JoAnne Negrin and Susan McGunnigle, also CHPS's technology department communication specialist, became part of the [Hate Has No Home Here](#) movement. The two organized the distribution of yard signs to send the powerful message in a visible way. We in the Cherry Hill Public Schools liked the idea so much, we made sure each of our schools now has a Hate Has No Home Here sign. Students, such as those pictured above at John A. Carusi Middle School, were instrumental in putting up the signs outside their schools.

The movement of solidarity against hate expanded, as Cherry Hill Township leadership approached the District about being part of a ["Hate Has No Home in Cherry Hill" video project](#). The video, filmed, edited and produced by Cherry Hill West Broadcast students, features members of the diverse Cherry Hill community and students and administrators from several of our schools who represent the District as a whole. I had the honor of speaking in the video as well, with my mascot friends Westley the Lion from Cherry Hill West and Crimson the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Kindergarten Registration](#)

Final day of registration: Barton Elementary School (rescheduled because of snow day on March 14)  
April 3, 8 am-4 pm,  
Malberg Administration Building  
**Children must be 5 years old by October 1, 2017 to be eligible for kindergarten.** It is not necessary to bring your child to register.

### [Cherry Hill High School West Spring Musical](#)

*Sister Act*  
March 31, April 1, 7 & 8  
@ 7 pm  
April 2 & 8 @ 2 pm  
[Tickets available online.](#)

### [Rosa International Middle School Spring Musical](#)

*Alladin, Jr.*  
March 31 & April 1  
ALL SHOWS SOLD OUT!

### [SCHOOLS CLOSED](#)

Spring Break  
April 10-14

### [INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY](#)

April 17

### [John A. Carusi Middle School Spring Musical](#)

*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*  
April 21 @ 7 pm  
April 22 @ 2 pm & 7pm

Cougar from Cherry Hill East. [Be sure to take two minutes and 30 seconds to watch the video.](#) It will make you proud of our students and proud to be a part of Cherry Hill!

At the Township Council meeting on March 27, Council recognized West seniors Kacper Miklus and Nick Alberto as well as sophomore Zach McAuliffe for their work on the “Hate Has No Home in Cherry Hill” video. Mayor Chuck Cahn also announced the formation of the [Township’s Human Relations Advisory Committee](#), of which I am pleased to be a member. The commitment to improving where we live, work and learn as an even more welcoming, safe environment is something all of us on committee take very seriously.

We will expand this conversation in our school district with the creation of a district level Human Relations Advisory Committee. There is tremendous work that must be done in our school district to honor, to respect, and to provide voice to all of our students, our families, and our staff members. As the tenor of conversations in our nation have shifted to a more divisive and openly confrontational level, it is our responsibility in Cherry Hill to be vocal and actively engaged in supporting all of the members of our community. There are members of our community who have not felt supported, who have not felt heard – this must stop. Today. We shall drive this conversation. We shall bring this conversation to the front in each of our schools and in our district. We shall improve to benefit each individual and we will be a better community for it.

As March leaves us on a cold, dreary note weather-wise, I encourage you to get out and enjoy the lighthearted musical comedy [Sister Act](#), opening tonight at Cherry Hill High School West. (See the Upcoming Events list at right for dates, times and a link to tickets.) Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the dates and times of our elementary music concerts, happening in the evening in all 12 of our elementary schools this spring. Mark your calendars for the [Project Graduation Community Yard Sale at West](#), the [Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival at Croft Farm](#) and the [10th Anniversary Dancing with the Cherry Hill Stars](#) – all the last weekend in April. If you missed my live Online Lunch yesterday, you may watch it at your leisure on our [YouTube channel](#). And remember, if you are unable to attend our Board of Education meetings, you may watch them on our [Live Stream](#). If you have a question about anything going on in our district, ask it through

## SAVE THE DATES:

**Earth Festival:** April 29, 10 am-2 pm @ Croft Farm  
details at

<http://www.sustainablecherryhill.org/>

## Dancing with the Cherry Hill

**Stars:** April 30, 7 pm @ Cherry Hill High School West

[Tickets available online.](#)

our [Quick Question](#) portal. Stay connected with the District through our free District App available at the App Store and Google Play – you may customize it to see your child’s school calendar, lunch account, receive push notifications and more! And of course, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Perhaps I'll see you tonight at the opening of *Sister Act*! Happy April!

Regards,

*Joseph N. Meloche*

Joseph N. Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



### CHPS Latin Students Win Big in SJ *Certamen* Academic Contest

Students from both Cherry Hill High School East and Cherry Hill High School West earned top awards at the *Certamen* academic contest at Princeton University on March 21. The knowledge-bowl competition includes questions on ancient Rome's language, history, mythology, literature and daily life. In a pool of 12 schools from South Jersey, the CHPS students did well:

West's Latin I team placed first in South Jersey. Congratulations to Kiana Amora, Patrick Buchanan, Elijah Blige, Cole Johnson and Jack Marble.



### High School PARCC Testing Complete, Middle and Elementary Schools Begin April 19

CHPS high school students this week successfully completed the first round of PARCC testing. [Middle and elementary school PARCC assessments will begin on April 19.](#)

The CHPS Assessment Office offers a [Learning Heroes Guide, "Get Ready for the Test" for parents in anticipation of the upcoming PARCC assessments.](#) This one-page guide was developed by Scholastic in partnership with the National PTA.

Important new graduation requirements for the class of 2021 pertain to 8th grade



### Cherry Hill East Students Earn Awards in National German Exam

Congratulations to the 13 German students from Cherry Hill High School East who have been awarded special recognition on the AATG Presidential Honor Roll for outstanding performance on the 2017 National German Exam for High School Students, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG).

East students won four gold medals, one silver medal and eight bronze medals. Seven additional students earned AATG Achievement

West's Latin II team placed fifth in South Jersey. Congratulations to Regina Carson, Aidan Corson, Sam Coverdale, Amal Essa and Katrina Lewis.

East's Latin II team placed first in South Jersey. Congratulations to Vivian Dinh, Michael Geisinger, Shir Goldfinger, Marina Shi and Lucy Warburton.

West's upper-level team placed second in South Jersey. Congratulations to Patrick Bean, Shane Beard, Thomas Potts, Phuoc Ho and Nicole Schmalbach. Mr. J.D. Munday, Latin teacher at both East and West and Junior Classical League sponsor, notes that West's upper-level team placement was "especially remarkable because our third and fourth year students prevailed over others in their fourth and fifth years of Latin."

The first place winners will move on to the state championships in April. Congratulations to all!

students currently enrolled in as Algebra I PARCC-eligible course. [Please click here for details on requirements for 8th grade Algebra I students.](#)

AS a reminder, the State Board of Education has approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2017 through 2021, and beyond. [Click here for details on these new regulations, which include the fact that the Class of 2020 is required to sit for the PARCC assessment in order to graduate.](#)

[A parents' guide to accessibility for English Learners taking the PARCC assessment is available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, improvements have been made to this year's PARCC assessment. [Click here to see a chart of the improvements.](#)

Parents concerned about PARCC accessibility are encouraged to refer to the brochure, [Expanding Access: Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in PARCC Assessments—A Parent's Guide.](#)

The Cherry Hill Public Schools Assessment Office also offers [an FAQ document to answer common questions about the PARCC assessment process.](#) All parents are encouraged to read this FAQ.

Awards for scores between the 50th and 69th percentile. Half of the East students taking the exam came away with awards. Level 1 German students will taking the exam in late April.

The gold medal winners received their awards after scoring in the 90th percentile. They were: senior Lia Yamamoto, sophomores Cherry Liu and Caleb O'Neill, and freshman Maya Gairo. The silver medal was awarded to Adam Kriesman and the bronze medals were awarded to sophomores Zoe Gold, Vivian Lu, Jeanie No, and Melissa Oberstaedt; juniors Averielle van Horne and Bryan Aylesworth; and seniors Matthew Oberstaedt and Brianna Dumont. The silver and bronze medals honor scores in the 80th and 70th percentile, respectively.

After an application and interview process, senior Lia Yamamoto has been nominated by the Southern NJ Chapter of AATG for the Senior Award Trip. The final decision will come from the AATG national office by mid-April. Students who score in the 90th percentile and have had less than two weeks of travel experience in German-speaking countries may apply. This award involves a month-long experience in Germany: a home stay, attending a German high school, and travel.

More than 20,000 students participated in the exam this

year.

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