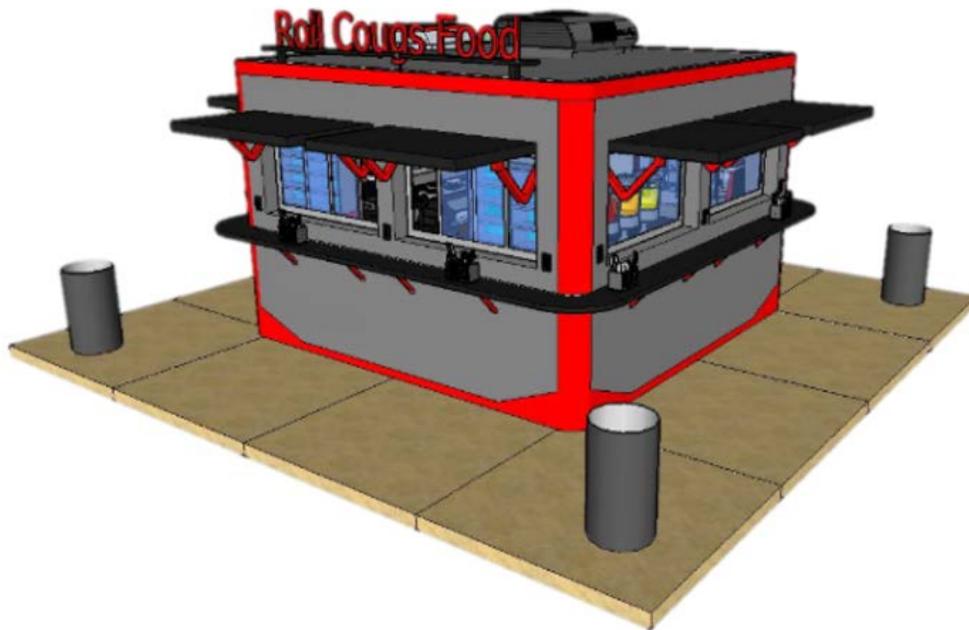


A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.



CHPS **W**EEKLY

District News for the week ending April 21, 2017

*Civil Discourse: An Engagement in Conversation Intended to Enhance Understanding

We hope you'll contribute to our conversations about the Cherry Hill Public School District.

I hope that everyone had a chance to relax during Spring Break and that all took time to be reflective and contemplative about life and the world around us all.

I always look forward to spring as the changes in our environment are real and truly visible. This past week I have found a reason to travel down Chapel Avenue to see the beauty of the Cherry blossom trees in full bloom. Each morning the birds seem to be active earlier and the buds and leaves on the trees are emerging each day. Our schools are alive with activity – I spent a delightful hour on the playground at Horace Mann yesterday, during lunch recess. Holding a meeting outside with children's laughter from the kickball game as the background "soundtrack" promoted positive discussion.

I began my day on Thursday at High School East, in Ms. Bennett's Sustainable Design class to observe student presentations on food kiosks, which they designed. I was fascinated by the volume of work and the depth of thought that went into each of the designs, one of which is pictured above. The students' projects were created to address the issue of "economic sustainability through redesign and relocation." Each student, or group of students, approached the same task in a different manner developing a variety of solutions address an individual need. It was exciting to watch them present, to take a group of adults through

John A. Carusi Middle School Spring Musical

Alice in Wonderland, Jr.

April 21 @ 7 pm

April 22 @ 2 pm & 7pm

Online Lunch with the Superintendent

April 27 @ noon

View from the comfort of your home or office <http://www.chclc.org/board-of-education/video>

Sustainable Cherry Hill 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.](#)

Board of Education Committee Meetings

Policy & Legislation: May 1

@ 6 pm, Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Curriculum & Instruction:

May 1 @ 7 pm, Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Business & Facilities: May 2 @ 6

pm, Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

Strategic Planning: May 2

@ 7:30 pm, Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

their thought process and their explanations of why their solution was the answer that would most benefit High School East. I will return to see Ms. Barnett and her students later in the spring to see the progression of their work.

As a school district, we currently provide learning opportunities and experiences to more than 11,300 students. Our students represent nearly 7,000 families who speak more than 57 languages at home, some who have lived in Cherry Hill for all of their lives, and some who have arrived within the past month from Philadelphia, from Latin America and from Asia. We are successful in educating our students and providing incredible opportunities, beyond the walls of the regular classrooms, for each of them. And, we can do better – we will do better.

We must engage ourselves in a cyclical process of continuous improvement through reflective practice and actionable movement forward. During the 2016-2017 academic year, we have been engaged in public discussion in the Cherry Hill Public Schools 2020 project. We have updated [our web site](#) to include a [direct link to the work!](#) I encourage you to come out to the Board of Education meetings, including committee meetings (the meetings in May are listed at right) to join the conversation – bring a friend, a neighbor! Please join in our conversation. Be willing to listen and to understand. Our responsibility as a community is to prepare our children to be successful in the world into which they are going to emerge, which is dramatically different than the one that any adult entered upon high school graduation.

We welcome all questions through our [“Quick Question”](#) portal on the District web site. Be sure to stay informed by following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you haven’t already, download our free District App from Google Play or the App Store. And please tune in to my next [live streaming](#) “Online Lunch” on April 27 at noon – you may submit questions ahead of time or contribute during the live streaming.

Get out and see our spring athletic teams – schedules are available online! Head to Carusi this weekend and to see Alice in Wonderland, Jr, tonight or tomorrow. Join me at High School East tonight for the Mr. East contest!

I am very excited about two upcoming community events – Saturday, April 29th is the 8th [Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival](#) at Croft Farm, from 10 am-2

[Board of Education Budget Adoption Meeting](#)

May 2 @ 7 pm, Malberg
Administration Building Board
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Board of Education Work Session](#)

May 9 @ 7 pm, Malberg
Administration Building Board
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Board of Education Action Meeting](#)

May 23 @ 7 pm, Malberg
Administration Building Board
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

pm, all of our schools will be represented! Make sure to get your tickets for the 10th Anniversary of [Dancing with the Cherry Hill Stars](#), on Sunday evening, April 30th at 7 pm at Cherry Hill High School West.

Regards,

Joseph N. Meloche

Joseph N. Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

**definition retrieved from <http://www.yourdictionary.com/civil-discourse>*



Cherry Hill High School East's "Stay Tuned" A Cappella Group Goes to National Championships

After years of placing first in the International Championship of HS A Cappella (ICHSA) Quarter Finals and second in Semi-finals, East's Stay Tuned, pictured above, is thrilled to have won first place in both competitions this year. The group, under the direction of Ms. Heather Lockart, competed for the National Championship title in the ICHSA Finals in NYC on Friday, April 21.

Of special note: Sarah Craig and Jared Camacho were selected by Ben Bram (music arranger for Pentatonix and "The Sing Off") as a featured soloist (Sarah), and bass (Jared), in



Middle and Elementary Schools' PARCC Assessments Continue

[Middle and elementary school PARCC assessments are now underway.](#)

The 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 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



Cherry Hill East Robotics Teacher Named "Teacher of the Year" at World Championship

Congratulations to Cherry Hill East teacher and Robotics Team adviser Mr. Joe Dilks on being named to the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation STEM Hall of Fame as Teacher of the Year.

This year, the Cherry Hill East Robotics teams 2616D, 2616G and 2616H earned three of the seven spots from New Jersey to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship Tenth Anniversary, in Louisville, Kentucky from April 19-22. The officers of the Robotics Club, Keith Babitz, David

a combined group number that Ben has arranged and was scheduled to direct on Friday.

Congratulations to Stay Tuned for this honor!

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.

Kell, Dmitri Fifis and Michael Ryan, wrote the 500-word essay to nominate Mr. Dilks, pictured above, center, for this honor.

Mr. Dilks was selected from among all submissions for the online challenge, open to VEX robotics teams from around the world. The award was a surprise at the Opening Ceremonies on April 21, as Mr. Dilks was unaware of the students' nomination. [Video of the presentation of the award may be viewed by clicking here.](#)

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