

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending February 9, 2018

Learning from History

Black History Month offers an opportunity for our schools to focus on the achievements of black Americans, as well as the challenges of the past and present.

It's Black History Month! All around the District, our students are reading, researching and discussing the central role that black people have had in shaping U.S. history. The event originated in 1926 as "Negro History Week," organized by noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries worldwide, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

I enjoyed a great start to Black History Month by attending the celebratory "Still Rising" talent showcase, presented by the African American Culture Clubs at high schools East and West, on Saturday afternoon, February 3. Pictured above, performers of all ages, from all across Cherry Hill, sang, danced, performed dramatic readings, played musical instruments and more, all honoring our very own Arthur Lewis, former DEA agent and Cherry Hill Board of Education member. The talent and enthusiasm of the performers was proof of their passion and their understanding of the importance of those who came before them. The event was a showcase not just of talent, but of the immeasurable value of our diverse community, of different points of view, of grit and persistence. I applaud all who were a part of making the production happen and for truly making it a community event, for coming together to celebrate

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

February 11 from 1-2:20 pm

Rosa International Middle School
485 Browning Lane

Board of Education Work Session

February 13 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Presidents' Day Holiday

February 19

Board of Education Action Meeting

February 27 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

OUR history!

In addition to celebrating Black History Month during February, we celebrated National School Counselor Week this week. The guidance counselors and student assistance coordinators (SACs) at all grade levels throughout the Cherry Hill Public Schools are among our unsung heroes. They shepherd our students through social, emotional and academic challenges and transitions from kindergarten through senior year of high school – all to make sure our students are on course so that we fulfill our mission as a District: *We shall provide all children with an education that develops open-minded thinkers with the strong academic and interpersonal skills to thrive in an ever-changing world and make it a better place for all.* If you didn't have a chance to thank your child's counselor this week, please take the time to do so sometime in the near future! A kind word and your memory of how the counselor has positively affected your family means a tremendous amount.

As always, please stay connected with us through the [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds from the District and your schools. Don't forget to check in with us on [YouTube](#), where you'll find my latest Online Lunch broadcast and our previously taped Board of Education meetings. Ask questions via the District web site Q&A portal, [Quick Question](#). And please remember, our Board Work Sessions and Action Meetings are open to the public and [broadcast live](#). All Board committee meetings, with the exception of Human Resources, are open to the public as well. My next Coffee & Conversation is this Sunday afternoon, February 11, from 1-2:30 pm at Rosa International Middle School – I hope to see you there! I'll have my coffee in hand – bring your favorite beverage and your questions!

As Valentine's Day approaches, please remember it can be a difficult time for some people, young and old. Always extend kindness, even to those you don't know, with a smile or a kind word. Kindness *always* makes a difference!

Regards,

Joe Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Sharp Elementary Earns NJ State School of Character Designation

Congratulations to Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School for being named a 2018 New Jersey School of Character (NJSOC) by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD). Sharp was selected after a rigorous application process to character.org. The school will maintain its status through the year 2020.

J.F. Cooper, James Johnson, and Kingston Elementary Schools all earned the designation of Honorable Mention Schools of Character for the state of New Jersey by character.org.

Sharp will be honored at a special recognition ceremony during the NJASECD Annual Conference in May.



2018 PARCC Assessment Information Now Available

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment schedule is now set. Assessments will begin Tuesday, April 17, 2018 with high school testing. Middle school testing will begin Tuesday, April 24, and elementary school testing will begin Thursday, May 3.

[A full schedule, including make-up dates](#), is available on the District web site. Additionally, [high school graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond](#) are now available on the District web site.



Earth Festival Elementary Poster and Middle/High School Video Contest Announced

The Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival has announced two contests in conjunction with this year's Earth Festival on April 28, 2018 at Croft Farm.

All public and private elementary school students in Camden County are invited to enter the [Student Poster Contest, revolving around this year's theme: "Reduce Plastic - Fantastic!"](#) Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place elementary winners. First place award: art supplies for the student and classroom worth \$200. Second place award: art supplies for the student and classroom

worth \$100.

All public and private middle and high school students in Camden County are invited to enter the [Student Video Contest, producing a short video commercial or public service announcement revolving around this year's theme: "Reduce Plastic - Fantastic."](#) First and second place prizes will be awarded in each middle and high school age group. First place: \$300. Second place: \$100.

Entrants must follow the guidelines specified by [Sustainable Cherry Hill](#). Entries will be accepted until Sunday, April 1, 2018. Winners will be recognized during the 9:45 am opening ceremony at the Earth Festival.

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