

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending February 16, 2018

Athletics as Inspiration

Inspiration from athletics is all around us this winter. From the robust athletics program in our schools, to the Eagles' Super Bowl win, to the Winter Olympics, stories of grit, redemption and triumph can provide motivation for all of us.

As people who know me will attest, I am a big proponent of students being involved in after-school activities, including sports. The athletics program in the Cherry Hill Public Schools has produced many regional and state champion athletes in many sports over the years – some teams have earned championships time and again. Regardless of their record, I believe every sports team delivers invaluable lessons to the students involved, including the team managers and even the spectators. Through sports, our students learn the rewards of hard work and dedication; how to be gracious losers and winners; how to mentor and learn from others; and how we are all capable of more than we realize.

I contend, too, that even those who don't have the time or the inclination to participate in or watch high school and middle school sports can learn from watching other athletic events on television. Watching the Eagles win the Super Bowl provided a fantastic lesson about the power of hard work, grit and resilience. I particularly appreciate quarterback Nick Foles' perspective about failure, as he accepted the Super Bowl MVP trophy: "Failure is a part of life. It's a part of building character and growing. Without failure, who would you be? I wouldn't be up here if I hadn't

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Presidents' Day Holiday
February 19

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

February 26 from 7-8:30 pm
Cherry Hill West Library
2101 Chapel Ave.

Board of Education Action Meeting

February 27 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building

Cherry Hill High School East Musical - "The Music Man"

March 2 & 3 @ 7:30 pm
March 4 @ 2 pm

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

March 3 from 9-10:30 am
Thomas Paine Elementary
4001 Church Road

fallen thousands of times, made mistakes... If something's going on in your life and you're struggling, embrace it. Because you're growing.”

As parents, it can be difficult to watch our children struggle, to watch them fail, without rushing in to “rescue” them. But listen to any athletes talk about how they achieved mastery or even greatness in their sport, and they will mention struggle and failure. I had the great privilege yesterday of attending a discussion with Isabelle Brasseur, the Canadian 1992 and 1994 Olympic bronze medalist pairs skater, who spoke with French students at Cherry Hill High School West. Ms. Brasseur, pictured above, spoke in both French and English about the work – since age 7 – that went into her Olympic achievements. She also spoke of learning English at age 18, and her determination to earn a college degree, which took eight years as she studied and competed at the Olympic level simultaneously. Her story is truly inspirational! And watching our current U.S. athletes competing in this year’s Olympics is astounding as well, whether they are gold medalists the same age as some of our students, or great comeback stories as “old” athletes in their 30s!

I encourage you to attend some of our sports events, even if your child doesn’t play. Schedules are posted on the school web sites. 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 interactive online broadcast, “Online at 5 with the Superintendent,” will air [on our live stream](#) Thursday, February 22 at 5 pm. My special guests will be Alternative High School Principal Dr. Lawyer Chapman and Ms. Cathleen Jenkins of the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association, to talk about Black History Month.

I wish you a relaxing Presidents’ Day Weekend, and hope you will continue to spread kindness in your travels, whether local or elsewhere. A smile and a kind word are easy to carry with us, and easy to give!

Regards,

Joe Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Summer Enrichment Camp Registration Now Open

[Registration is now open for the Cherry Hill Public Schools Summer Enrichment Camp Program.](#)

Two changes to this year's program:

The camp is not open on Fridays, as the District is closed on Fridays during the summer.

Non-resident employees of the BOE may now enroll their children in the camp.

The camp, for children who will enter grades 1 through 6 in September 2018, runs from June 25 through August 16, 2018, and is closed July 4.



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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