

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



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending February 23, 2018

# Celebrating Our Diversity, Past and Present

The month of February has presented multiple opportunities for celebrating diversity in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. **WE** embrace all of the cultures that comprise our community.

As we approach the last few days of February, it's a good time to reflect on the many ways our schools have studied and celebrated the diversity of our community and our nation at large. This month, as I've mentioned before, is Black History Month, which was kicked off in the District with the talent showcase "Still Rising," presented by Cherry Hill High Schools East's and West's African American Culture Clubs on February 3. Since that performance, schools throughout the District have studied and celebrated the contributions of black Americans through read-ins, role playing, discussion at the elementary and middle school level, and even the Living Black History Museum at Cherry Hill West. At the end of the month, on February 27 at the Board of Education Action Meeting, the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association (CHAACA) will award prizes to the winning student contestants in its annual Black History Month Poster/Video/Essay competition. I had the great pleasure yesterday of discussing Black History Month and the contest during my ["Online at 5 with the Superintendent" live stream broadcast](#) with my guests Dr. Lawyer Chapman, principal of the Alternative High School, and Ms. Cathleen Jenkins of CHAACA.

In addition to celebrating Black History Month, we have enjoyed the pageantry and history of the Chinese New Year. I was delighted to attend the Hua Xia Chinese School's New Year celebration of the Year of the Dog, pictured above, at Cherry Hill West on February 17. Lessons and displays about the Chinese New Year, which began on February 16, and Chinese culture have been presented at schools across the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

### Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

March 5 @ 6 pm  
Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

March 5 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

March 6 @ 6 pm

District. I am thrilled that we will have the opportunity to expand the study of Chinese language and culture with the addition of our Chinese language pilot program in the fall of 2018. Also this week was World Language Day, celebrated with an assembly highlighting student performers at Cherry Hill West. Witnessing the pride of heritage and the talent of our students at all of these celebrations is a true privilege. Most of all, these cultural groups learn from one another and support one another, creating an environment of inclusivity that spills out into the larger community. As our students graduate from our schools and make their way into the world, their comfort with diversity and their expectation of inclusion will make society a better place.

As we all want the best society has to offer for our children, the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, has spurred a great deal of discussion about the safety of students at schools all over the country. As educators, safety and security is our primary responsibility on a daily basis. We have well developed and thoughtful safety plans for all of our facilities. The Cherry Hill Police Department regularly reviews our plans and actively participates in debriefing after we complete security drills. Safety and security is everyone's responsibility. As I stated in my letter to the community last week, I encourage everyone to help us maintain safe campuses for our children. There is a great deal of public discussion regarding safe schools – in our community, in the news, and on social media. If you are an active participant in these discussions, please always be respectful. Our children learn from how adults interact – in agreement and in disagreement. If you have questions or you would like to engage in additional dialogue, join me on Monday evening at 7:00 pm in the media center at HS West and participate in my community conversation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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

Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

March 6 @ 7 pm

Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Human Resources, are open to the public as well. As I mentioned above, my next Coffee & Conversation meeting will be this Monday evening, February 26, from 7-8:30 pm at Cherry Hill High School West. I hope you will bring your favorite beverage and join me for discussion about our long-range strategic plan and the upcoming bond referendum.

As always, I wish you a lovely weekend – be sure to share and kind word and a smile with those you see! And let's all wish great success to both the Boys and Girls Swim Teams at Cherry Hill High School East, and the High School East Robotics Teams as they compete for their respective state championships this weekend!

Regards,

*Joe Meloche*

Joe Meloche

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



### 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](#)



### 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

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

[requirements for the classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond](#) are now available on the District web site.

[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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