

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending December 1, 2017

The Season of Giving

The busy holiday season is upon us, and **WE** are dedicated to focusing on the gifts we can give, rather than the gifts we receive.

Happy December! For many of us, it's hard to believe we are already into the holiday season. Of course, decorations and lights abound in our neighborhoods and all around town. Radio stations are playing their holiday playlists, television stations are airing holiday specials, and our high schools are getting ready to perform beloved holiday classics on stage (see the story below, left). But to me, the best and most uplifting indicator of the holiday season is the effort of students, families and staff – District wide – to GIVE this season. We all have something to offer and to give.

I encourage you to ask your children what projects related to giving are going on in their schools. Our schools are already conducting or organizing clothing drives, toy donations, the collection of extra change for charity, blood drives, gift card collections and more. Dr. Kwame Morton, principal at Cherry Hill High School West, discusses in his [Weekly Video Message from November 27](#) that giving during the holidays doesn't necessarily have to be about money or material goods – we can all give of ourselves through service to others, through a smile and kind word. I could not agree more!

Students from both High Schools East and West are preparing for the large and meaningful FOP Christmas Party on December 18 at the Crowne Plaza. This all-day event, sponsored by Cherry Hill's own Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 28, provides joy for special needs students throughout the region. I attend this party every year, and the high school volunteers always remark about the joy they themselves experience in giving their time and talents to the event. Please watch for more coverage of this fantastic effort.

I encourage you to find ways, with your family and friends, to give this season. The size of your contribution – whether monetary or through gift-giving, or giving your time – doesn't matter. What

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cherry Hill High School East Production

It's a Wonderful Life
Dec 1,2,8 & 9 @ 7:30 pm
Cherry Hill High School
East

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

Dec 2
9-10:30 am
Kingston Elementary
School,
320 Kingston Rd.

Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting

Dec 5 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

Cherry Hill High School West Production

*A Christmas Carol - The
Musical*
Dec 15 & 16 @ 7 pm
Dec 16 & 17 @ 2 pm
Cherry Hill High School
West

Board of Education Action Meeting

Dec 19 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Dec 23-Jan 1

matters is your commitment to helping someone else, to brightening someone's day, to helping spread kindness and cheer. If you're looking for ideas or opportunities for giving, trying following the [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds from the District and your schools.

In addition to following us on those platforms, I encourage you to keep up with the latest happenings in the District by following us on [YouTube](#). There, 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 and Conversation" meeting, to discuss our long range strategic plan and the upcoming bond referendum on October 2, 2018, is tomorrow, December 2, from 9-10:30 am at Kingston Elementary School. I hope you will bring your favorite beverage and your questions! If you can't make it, please plan to attend [one of the other meetings scheduled through June](#).

I will be at the opening night of Cherry Hill East's production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, pictured above, tonight, and I hope I'll see you there. As this classic play reminds us, it IS a wonderful life, even during challenging times. Let's all remember to support one another with kindness and generosity of spirit, every day! I look forward to seeing everyone at an upcoming event.

Regards,

[Joe Meloche](#)

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

NOTE: All schools will be in session for a FULL DAY on Friday, Dec 22



High Schools Present Classic Holiday Shows Centered on Spirit of Giving

Cherry Hill High Schools East and West will present beloved holiday plays this month, offering audiences family shows and an opportunity to help those in need.

East's production of *It's a Wonderful Life* opens Friday, December 1 at 7:30 pm and runs at the same time on December 2, 8 and 9. East Theatre, in conjunction with the show, is raising money for hurricane relief with a goal of reaching \$8,000 - the same amount as the money that goes missing in the beginning of *It's a Wonderful Life*. NBC10 visited East on December 1 to shoot a story, as pictured above, about the students' fundraising effort. The story is expected air early next week.

Tickets to *It's a Wonderful Life* are available at the box office one hour before show or by calling (856) 424-2222 extension 2019.

West will present *A Christmas Carol - The Musical*, based on the story by Charles Dickens, on December 15 and 16 at 7 pm, and December 16 and 17 at 2 pm. This story of a greedy and cold man's redemption is another family favorite. Tickets and



High School Vocal Groups Seek Votes in Radio "Christmas Choir" Competition

Congratulations to Cherry Hill High School East's Voce and Cherry Hill High School West's Chamber Singers vocal groups for placing as semi-finalists in the B101 "Christmas Choir" Competition!

For the groups to advance in the competition, they must receive enough online votes. There is no limit to how often an individual may vote. All voting must be done via the [B101 web site](#).

Voting for East's Voce will be open on Monday, December 4 from 7:15 am-9 pm. Voting for West's Chamber Singers will be open on Wednesday, December 6 from 7:15 am-9 pm.

The winning choir will be featured on 101.1 More FM during the holidays, and the winning school's music program will win a cash prize up to \$5000. First place winners also will win the opportunity to perform live on stage with The Philly POPS during "A Philly POPS Christmas... Spectacular Sounds of the Season" show.

Good luck to both groups!



Board of Education Recognizes Outstanding Fall Sports Teams

The Board of Education on November 28 recognized three high school fall sports teams for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2017 season.

The Cherry Hill High School West Girls Soccer Team, pictured above with their coach, Ms. Katina Anthony, far right, was recognized for their achievement as South Jersey Group 3 Finalists.



The Cherry Hill High School East Girls Tennis Team, pictured above, was recognized for their achievement as American Division Conference Champions under the direction of Coach Mary Jewett (not pictured).



Also recognized were the members of the Cherry Hill

information about the Breakfast with Santa preceding the December 16 matinee are available online at ShowTix4U.com or by calling (856) 663-8006, extension 1224.

High School West Girls Cross Country Team, under the direction of Coach Maggie Stimel (not pictured), for earning the team title of State Qualifiers for the first time in school history.

Congratulations to all!