

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending September 7, 2018

What's New

The new school year brings new practices and initiatives to our schools. **WE** are happy to share them.

Now that we have wrapped up our first few days of school, I would like once again to welcome our CHPS families to the 2018-2019 school year! I had the great pleasure of visiting our schools on opening day, as well as yesterday and today. You may have noticed some changes already in place, and I'd like to go over those, as well as some important initiatives that are happening this year.

As I have explained in previous communications, we now employ nine armed Campus Police Officers, all of whom were on hand at their assigned schools on the first day, greeting our children and parents as they arrived. These officers, [five of whom are new employees](#), are committed to building relationships with all of our students, as we all believe positive relationships are a central key to building a safer school environment.

Our administration and staff members also have a strong commitment to positive relationships with our students. Much of our summer professional development focused on the importance of student voice and authentic listening, learning and leading on the part of the adults in our buildings. Additionally, each of our elementary schools has a guidance counselor on staff. Our middle schools have a guidance counselor for each grade level and a student assistance counselor (SAC)/anti-bullying specialist. Our high schools each have a supervisor of guidance and multiple guidance counselors (10 at East and 8 at West) as well as a student assistance counselor (SAC)/anti-bullying specialist. This year, we are adding the [STOPit app](#) for use in all of our schools, after having piloted the program last year at Beck Middle School and both high schools. The app allows students anonymously to report incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) to CHPS staff. Please note that the app is not a crisis hotline, but rather a reporting mechanism for HIB behavior. As always, resources for student assistance,

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOLS CLOSED

September 10 & 11

SCHOOLS CLOSED

September 19

Board of Education Action Meeting

September 25 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

October 1 @ 6 pm
Rosa International Middle
School Media Center
485 Browning Lane

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

October 1 @ 7 pm
Rosa International Middle
School Media Center
485 Browning Lane

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

October 2 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration
Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

BOE Special Action Meeting

October 2 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace
*This meeting replaces the
Strategic Planning
Committee Meeting*

including mental health and substance abuse resources, can be found under the [Student Assistance](#) link on the District web site.

Thanks to our increase in funding from the state of New Jersey, we are embarking this year on building new security vestibules at the entrances to Thomas Paine and Woodcrest Elementary Schools, as well as installing interior and exterior security cameras and exterior lighting on each site, modeled after the security prototype at the Barclay Early Childhood Center. We will also be installing interior and exterior security cameras, exterior site lighting, and electronic card access at High Schools East and West this year.

Our plan to continue these security upgrades in all of our buildings is included in our upcoming Bond Referendum. During the Board of Education meeting on September 25 the Bond Referendum Questions will be presented publicly for the first time, and we will discuss our special election date, which likely will be finalized at a Special Action meeting on October 2. I encourage you to stay informed about the bond via the ["Bond 2018"](#) button on the District web site. Details regarding the projects and associated costs will be added to the Bond web site upon Board adoption of the referendum questions on October 2. Information also will be available at our Back to School Nights, beginning Wednesday, September 12.

I wish you a restful long weekend, as schools are closed this Monday and Tuesday, September 10 and 11. Be sure to catch up with your children about their first few days of school! I can assure you, our staff and administration saw a great deal of joy, enthusiasm and curiosity among our students this week as they reconnected and made new friends. See for yourself the examples of this on our [Twitter page](#), by searching Twitter for #WEareCHPS and #YayForTheFirstDay. We plan to keep the momentum of positivity going throughout this school year! If you haven't already done so, please be sure to join the PTA! Our PTAs are a wonderful asset within our community. There is also a [Cherry Hill Special Education PTA \(CHSEPTA\)](#) that can be joined. Information about school PTAs is available on our individual school web sites.

Continue to share kind words and a positive outlook within our community. Our children are watching, listening, and learning from us every day.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Cherry Hill West Student Gives Back to Kingston Elementary with Girl Scout Project

Congratulations to Cherry Hill High School West senior Alexa Caputo, who earned the Girl Scout Gold Award as a member of Troop 30419 for her work to provide a Courtyard Classroom for the students of her elementary school alma mater, Kingston Elementary.

Alexa put together a team consisting of her and her sister's Girl Scout troop, Kingston 5th grade Peer Leaders, Kingston Principal Dr. William Marble, Kingston teachers, lumber and paint teams from Lowes, art experts at A.C. Moore, and her parents to build tables for the courtyard at the elementary school. The tables now furnish the Courtyard Classroom.

"I was a kid who couldn't sit still [in elementary school]," Alexa, pictured above with her Kingston teachers from grades K-5,



Board of Education Candidate Biographies Now Available

Curious about the 11 candidates running for the three open Board of Education seats in this year's November 6 election? [Biographies of the candidates are now available online.](#)

Biographies are published as submitted by the candidates, unedited.



Community Bulletin Board Offers Scouting, Sports & Events Information

Be sure to click the [Community Bulletin Board link](#) at the bottom of the [District web site](#) home page. You'll find information about after school programs, league sports, seminars, community events and other activities around Cherry Hill.

To post information on the Community Bulletin Board, please email the public information office at publicinfo@chclc.org

as well as Dr. Meloche and Dr. Marble, says. "I had vision problems, and sitting to read was a real issue for me. My teachers always found a way to help me get through and I wanted to make it easier for them to help future generations."

Alexa's achievement also was featured this week in the [Cherry Hill Sun](#).

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