

A message from Maureen Reusche, Ed. D., Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of April 2, 2015

District Reaches Milestones in Sustainability

As Earth Day and Sustainable Cherry Hill's Earth Festival approach, our schools are growing their sustainability efforts.

The implementation of the [Cherry Hill Public Schools' Sustainability Plan](#) has been a collective effort on the part of

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Break

April 3-12

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Dr. Angela
Duckworth's

students, teachers, administrators, community members and others to improve our “green” practices district wide. The three-year Sustainability Plan is wrapping up its first year next month. We’ve made tremendous strides in that time, with more exciting work ahead.

To help reach our goals, we adopted the framework of Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program, launched in the fall of 2014. After carefully researching the program, we decided it was a good fit to support us in moving the Sustainability Plan forward.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward schools as they pursue sustainability programs. Based on the successful Sustainable Jersey certification program for municipalities (74 percent of NJ municipalities participate, including Cherry Hill Township), Sustainable Jersey for Schools promotes a comprehensive and results-oriented approach to sustainability. Participating schools can choose from 87 actions – such as performing energy audits, integrating sustainability into student learning and boosting recycling efforts – to earn points for certification. One level of points earns a school and/or district “Bronze” status. A higher level of points earns a school/district “Silver” status. [You may learn more about Sustainable Jersey for Schools by clicking here for their web site.](#) Our district is registered and **each** of our 19 schools has completed the initial step in the submission process, with the goal of certifying all as either Bronze or Silver schools in the future.

In addition to our involvement with Sustainable Jersey for Schools, six of our schools have met their goals as part of the [Recyclebank Green Schools Program](#), in which Recyclebank customers donated their points to Bret Harte, Clara Barton, J.F. Cooper and Joyce Kilmer Elementary Schools, as well as Henry C. Beck Middle School and Cherry Hill High School East. The donated points add up to more than \$15,000 to go toward grant projects for these schools. Each participating school has an exciting project planned for the coming months. Cherry Hill East, for example, will receive funds to continue reduction of single-use disposable plastics. To promote the continued use of reusable containers for water as opposed to single-use

[Presentation on Grit](#)

April 16, 7 pm
Cherry Hill High School
West

[Volley for Support](#)

April 17, 5:30 pm
Cherry Hill High School
East

[PARCC Primer Series Change](#)

Because we are waiting for more information from the New Jersey Department of Education, our PARCC Primer Series Part 3: “What PARCC Means” has been postponed from the original April 21 and 23, 2015, dates. We will publicize the new dates for the series when they become available.

disposable water bottles, East currently uses a water filtration system that keeps track of how many plastics water bottles are being kept out of a landfill. The grant will maintain the filtration system and educate the school community and other schools in the district about the importance of using reusable containers.

We'll continue to post updates about the other schools' Recyclebank grant projects. In the meantime, be sure to attend the Earth Festival on Saturday, April 25 at Croft Farm from 10 am to 2 pm. You may read more about the Earth Festival below, center.

We wish you a relaxing Spring Break – whether you travel or stay at home – with time outdoors, perhaps even enjoying sustainability projects in or around your own house!

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

P.S. Our district news, including the departments in our former “e-news” – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News - is available by [clicking here](#). Check our [Activities Calendar](#) on the [District web site](#) for updates about upcoming events and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You'll find the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 District Calendars [here](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.

And please continue to [send us any news](#) about what's happening in the District!



Student Green Teams Embark on Waste Audits, Improving Sustainability



Earth Festival Offers Recycling Opportunities, Student Work,



Where Are They Now?

Dominick Itzi, a 2004

Students in the Cherry Hill Public Schools are spearheading efforts to improve the way waste is handled in their schools. Their work with Cherry Hill Township and [Sustainable Cherry Hill](#) has exciting implications for improving sustainability throughout the District.

This winter, students from Cherry Hill East expressed a desire to improve their rate of recycling. The East Green Team, pictured above during a meeting, sought the expertise of the Cherry Hill Department of Public Works (DPW) to develop some strategies for more sustainable waste management practices. During meetings last month, the DPW went over the findings of the waste audit with the students.

"What surprised the students was that Dominick Itzi of DPW (see "Where Are They Now?" at right) told them they're recycling rate of 68 percent is actually very good," says Lori Braunstein of Sustainable Cherry Hill. "This tends to sound odd to them, because 68 percent would not be a good grade on a test, but in measuring sustainability, it's very good."

The students learned that the more pressing need at

Entertainment

Spring cleaning underway?

Many of the items you may be ready to throw out will be welcomed at the Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival on Sat., April 25 at Croft Farm. Drop off any of the items listed below at the Recycling Depot near the main Croft Farm driveway from 10 am-2pm:

End-of-life electronics: E-Force Recycling will collect almost anything with a plug (no TVs, glass monitors or large appliances).

Plastic shopping bags: Bags will be recycled by Ravitz Market ShopRites.

Gently worn shoes: The Cherry Hill Public Schools will donate to Soles for Souls.

Rechargeable batteries *only:* from cordless and cell phones, toys, cordless tools; lithium – including laptop, wireless sensor, AA, digital camera, and coin batteries will be recycled by Batteries Plus, Mt. Laurel.

Hangers: wire hangers only will be re-used by Spot Cleaners, Cherry Hill. (Please, no dry cleaning plastic.)

After you recycle, stay for the Earth Festival to see the Cherry Hill Schools' "green" displays and student performers on stage. Acts will include: Close Harmony and the Rosettes from Rosa International Middle School; Cherry Hill High School East's Multicultural Day; Beck Dance Club; Beck Bobcat

graduate of Cherry Hill High School West, has found his professional passion in the Cherry Hill Department of Public Works (DPW). But when he first graduated, his path was not clear.

"I bounced around from job to job for about the first two years after graduation," recalls Mr. Itzi, pictured above. "My grandfather kept pushing me to go to college. He'd say, 'Out of all my grandkids, I thought you'd be the one to go to college.'"

After his grandfather's death in 2007, Mr. Itzi reevaluated his choices. "I went back to school at night," he says. This year, he will earn his bachelor's degree in economics at Rutgers and, through the school's bridge program, will immediately work toward a master's degree.

Mr. Itzi's first job at DPW was as a laborer. In May of 2014, he took over as Safety/Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator, his current position. He has had the pleasure this year of working with students on the high school green teams, most recently talking with students at Cherry Hill East about their waste audit. (See "Student Green Teams Embark on Waste Audits, Improving Sustainability" at left.)

"Working with students is especially rewarding," Mr.

their school is to address their organic waste from the cafeteria. (Organic waste is anything that comes from plants or animals that is biodegradable.) They now are developing strategies for an effective organic waste recycling program.

A waste audit and similar student green team involvement is planned for Cherry Hill High School West.

"It's great to see these kids get involved," says Mr. Itzi. "They have some great ideas and they're ready to make them happen. I tell them, 'I was in your seat once. Maybe someday one of you guys will be doing work like this in your community for a career.' It's a great thing."

Cheerleaders; Carusi Middle School Orchestra; and Carusi Jazz Band.

Students' "green" displays will highlight ongoing work throughout the district. Some displays will be interactive, with activities for children of all ages.

Early risers with the "exercise bug" will want to join the Mayor's Family Fun Bike ride, with registration at 8 am or ahead of time online. The ride begins at 9 am, with two-mile and nine-mile routes. Minimum age to participate is 8 years; helmets are required. [Click here for more information on the bike ride and a registration form.](#)

Itzi says. As a lifelong Cherry Hill resident, he attended Clara Barton Elementary from kindergarten through fifth grade, then Carusi Middle School. "With how deep my roots are in this town, it's a great win for me to work here and give back."

Mr. Itzi credits his involvement in DECA during all four years of high school, as well as the guidance of business teacher Mrs. Evelyn Minutolo at West, with giving him a leg up once he got to college. Now, he says, he's applying the concepts he learned in DECA and in college to his everyday work.

"I'm also becoming more and more passionate about recycling and sustainability," he says. "In 2012, Cherry Hill's recycling tonnage grant was the tenth highest in the state. I want to play a strong role in making us number one in the state. I want us to be the leader."

Interested in seeing someone you know featured in Where Are They Now? [Send us a brief description and contact information.](#)

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