

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



## CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of December 4, 2015

# Volunteerism &

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

# Parent Involvement

**The help of CHPS parents and community members has value beyond measure.**

I have the opportunity to interact with volunteers from throughout our educational community. I contend that the majority of folks who work in the district volunteer time beyond the normal 'work day' to enhance the community and to provide an extra sense of something special, one of the amazing things that makes Cherry Hill such an incredible place to raise a family. Our educational community benefits from members of the community who volunteer in a myriad of ways to benefit the students of Cherry Hill. Eleanor Stofman and the members of the Cherry Hill Education Foundation, our Bookmates and Art Goes to School folks, the various faith based groups and the Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts, the police and fire departments, the Rotary Clubs, the Lions Club, and the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars all choose to make a difference to our educational community. Our Board of Education members are volunteers.

Perhaps the greatest core group of volunteers are led by our PTA (such as the Barton Elementary PTA members shown at a "Kids Paint Night" above) – the unsung cadre of parents and family members who are always on call for school events and to support the students and the staff. I have been privileged to watch as PTA has evolved into a truly impactful group in our community. As the elementary and middle school conferences occurred this week, thousands of parents and family members adjusted their schedules to visit one of the schools and to hear specific updates about our children's experience. This continued commitment to our children pays untold dividends moving forward.

As I have been attending winter concerts, I have seen and heard the impact that involved parents and families have on our young vocalists and instrumental musicians. I am grateful to support that is continuously provided to all of our schools.

Please continue to volunteer and to contribute to

## East Fall Show

*The Tempest*

December 4, 5, 11 & 12  
@ 7:30 pm

Cherry Hill High School  
East

## BOE Work Session

December 8, 7 pm  
Board Room,  
Malberg Admin. Bldg.,  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

## West Fall Show

*The Outsiders*

December 10 & 11 @ 7 pm  
December 12 @ 2 pm &  
7 pm

Cherry Hill High School  
West

## BOE Action Meeting

December 22, 7 pm  
Board Room,  
Malberg Admin. Bldg.,  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

## Early Dismissal

December 23

## Schools Closed

Winter Recess

December 24-January 3

our community. Every time your volunteer, you contribute to our district and you contribute to the success of our students.

I am looking forward to seeing folks at the fall plays and remaining winter concerts.

Share a kind word, a smile, a kind deed.

Regards,

***Joe Meloche***

Joseph Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

P.S. Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the very latest happenings around the District. Our [District Events Calendar](#) on the District web site is a great resource for updates about upcoming events. [You'll find the 2015-2016 School Year "Overview" Calendar here.](#) For events and activities in the Cherry Hill Community, check out our [Community Bulletin Board](#) on our [web site](#). And visit our [YouTube channel](#) for videos from around the District.



### **West Receives Scabbard for AFJROTC Color Guard**

On November 20, retired Air Force Junior ROTC teacher Chief Al Gargas, pictured above, second from right, donated an engraved scabbard to Cherry Hill High School West for use by the color



### **Eastside Staff Members Garner National Honors**

At the National High School Journalism Convention in Orlando, 15 Eastside editors took home 11 individual awards in write-off competitions, ranking Eastside, Cherry Hill East's student newspaper, among the top in the country in terms of number of awards.



### **Carusi Earns \$10K Sustainability Grant; 4 Elementary Schools Earn \$2K Each**

Congratulations to John A. Carusi Middle School for earning a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools (SJS) grant to fund its "Homegrown-Carusi Community Garden Project, a community garden

guard.

"Chief," as he is known, started teaching AJROTC in February 1995 and retired in June 2015. When he arrived, West had a ceremonial sword (saber) for the Color Guard, which they continued to use through this fall.

"The years had taken a toll on it," Chief says. "I had wanted to replace it, especially this past year."

With nearly 29 years in the Air Force, he says, Chief attended many retirement parties. "I also attended numerous retirement parties over the 20 plus years of teaching at West," he recalls. "My students gave me the most memorable retirement party this past June. It was a surprise party that I will never forget. I wanted to do something special for them."

Chief decided to purchase a high quality sword for the Color Guard. He had it laser engraved to read, "Donated by Chief Gargas 2015."

"Working at West and having the opportunity to teach so many fine students is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Students are 100 percent of the future and should be given every opportunity to become better citizens and lead a successful life. My

Also, the Quiz Bowl team of Sari Cohen, Sam Greenberg, Julia Rothkoff and Ethan Tinkelman earned the number 16 seed in the National High School Journalism Quiz Bowl, and the team of Jacob Borowsky, Steve Mirsen, Jenna Myers and Liza Rothkoff qualified as the number 7 seed and advanced to the quarterfinals.

For her comic strip published in every issue last year, graduate Rachel Pacitti was a top-ten finisher in the National Cartoonist of the Year Contest.

The other individual awards:

Sam Greenberg and Matt Kains: Superior in Social Media Reporting (one of top two teams in country)

Luke Hinrichs: Superior in Sports Writing

Kaitlyn Boyle: Excellent in Feature Writing

Gabriella Friedman: Excellent in Magazine Photography

Drew Hoffman: Excellent in On-Air Reporting

Tammy Stahl: Excellent in Magazine Illustration

Sydney Steele: Excellent in Editorial Cartooning

Ashley Cooper, Sonia Kim and Liza Rothkoff: Excellent in Online News Package

Jacob Borowsky: Honorable Mention in Logo Design

Madeline Bowne and Ben Goldsmith: Honorable Mention in Broadcast News

Hope Rosenblatt: Honorable Mention in Review Writing

to be developed in the school's courtyard.

The garden will provide an opportunity for teachers to bring horticulture and environmental education directly to the classrooms. Teachers and students will work with community organizations to explore where food comes from, why healthy choices impact our bodies and world, how to live sustainably and how to eat "clean" and "green."

The grant, funded by the NJEA, is one of more than \$180,000 in grants awarded to qualifying schools and districts.

Carusi Principal Dr. John Cafagna, pictured above center, accepted the grant with Assistant Principal Dr. Christine Miles, second from left, and Green Team leader Ms. Michelle Corona, second from right.

Congratulations also go out to the four CHPS elementary schools that each won a \$2,000 SJS grant: Horace Mann Elementary, for their "Teaching Farm" project; James Johnson Elementary, for their "Operation Wildflowers" project; and Joseph D. Sharp Elementary for "Operation Wildflowers.

students made teaching a pleasure. I wish all the students I taught a bright and promising future. I wanted to give the JROTC Color Guard something they needed to support the many events they are called upon to participate in the Cherry Hill Community," Chief says.

"This is my way of thanking them for all the great memories teaching them brought me."

Cadet Deputy Commander of the NJ-781st AFJROTC Darrell Ernst, far right, accepted the donation on behalf of the students.

Also in attendance were, from left, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche and Principal Dr. Kwame Morton.

