

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



Auld Lang Syne, Renewed Positivity

As we close 2016 and prepare for 2017, we continue to consider the impact of our words and the importance of the example we set.

The first four months of our school year end today, December 23rd – and what an incredible four months they have been for Cherry Hill. Our educational community is thriving – children from 3 to 21 have shown remarkable growth and development in the classroom, on our athletic fields and in our theaters, and in the community at large. I have watched children read their first books, practice writing their last names, deliver Shakespearean sonnets in rhythmic verse, discuss the difference between exothermic and endothermic reactions (whether heat is pulled in or repelled), and debate the New Deal. I have met with and shared conversations with student focus groups, PTA boards and general membership groups, local realtors, the Chamber of Commerce, and our state legislators and local officials. On Wednesday, I heard members of the Belles of East talk about singing for President Obama, in the White House (<http://www.eastmusicboosters.org/white-house>). In each interaction, I am reminded how incredible our school district and our community are, how we are blessed with the opportunity to raise and to educate our children here and to be members of such a diverse yet connected community. We have talented, gritty, and compassionate students who come from supportive

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

December 23

SCHOOLS CLOSED

December 24 - January 1

CLASSES RESUME

January 2

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

January 2 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

January 2 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

January 3 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Board of Education Reorganization Meeting

January 3 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

and engaged homes.

As a school district, we have spent a great deal of time with our staff and our students discussing the impact of words and actions. Our words carry great meaning and they allow us to express ourselves to the world around us. Words have impact, words set tone, words can praise (as on the Johnson Elementary bulletin board, pictured above) and words can wound, words can be inviting and words can be discouraging. As a community, we all carry a responsibility to be positive examples and role models for our children and for one another.

In his December 31, 2015 address to the nation, India's President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, shared these words:

May the New Year be an occasion to make a fresh beginning and renew our resolve for individual as well as collective growth. Let us inculcate in ourselves love, compassion, tolerance and work towards creating an inclusive society where peace and harmony prevails.

For Cherry Hill, for our community and our district, I offer President Mukherjee's words as a foundation from which to continue our conversations and our work together.

If you are not already doing so, be sure to follow us on our [web site](#), and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). I wish you all peace, health and happiness in the New Year.

Enjoy the winter break,

Joe Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



West

Thespian Society Brings Cheer to CHOP Patients

Six members of the Cherry Hill High School West Thespian Society visited Virtua/Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in Voorhees on December 22 after school to bring cheer to children in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric Emergency Department. The West students, pictured above with Virtua/CHOP staff, dressed as popular Disney characters.

The children enjoyed the visit so much that the group was asked to come back in early February.



East Principal Becomes "Elf on a Shelf" to Celebrate Successful Food Drive

Cherry Hill High School East Principal Dr. Dennis Perry, pictured above, spent an hour as an "Elf on a Shelf" in a display case at the school on December 21, 2016. Dr. Perry's stint as "Elf on a Shelf" fulfilled his promise to spend an hour in a showcase if students during Spirit Week collected a certain amount of nonperishable food for their food drive.

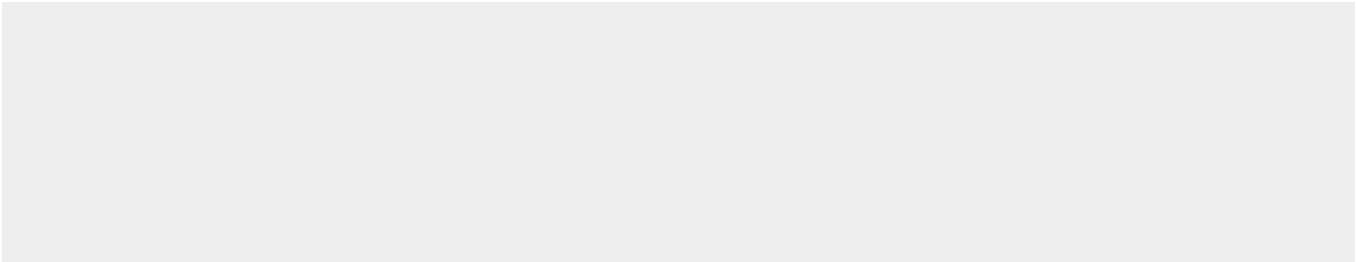
Also, Mr. CJ Davis, East's Coordinator of Student Activities, will fulfill his promise to spend a night on East's roof on a future date as a result of the successful food drive – stay tuned! More than 3 tons of food was collected!



CHPS Student Volunteers Bring Joy to Guests at FOP Holiday Party

High School student volunteers from both high schools East and West joined FOP Lodge 28 Cherry Hill as the police officers hosted the annual holiday party for Cherry Hill area children with special needs at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia/Cherry Hill on December 19.

Dozens of student volunteers, some of whom are pictured above, decorated a room where guests could meet with Santa Claus. The volunteers also assisted the children on the dance floor, helped them visit characters such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and the Phillie Phanatic, and made sure all attendees had a wonderful time.



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