

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



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending March 4, 2016

# In Celebration

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

# of Reading

**Read Across America Week pays tribute to the importance – and the joy – of reading in education.**

The first week of March is one of my favorite times of the year. The elementary schools in our district hum with excitement and activity as Read Across America Week is celebrated in creative ways in every classroom, K-5. You may read about the many events our schools produced this week in the story below, left. [Read Across America Week](#) is an offshoot of Read Across America Day, also known as Dr. Seuss's Birthday, March 2, and started by the National Education Association in 1998. Dr. Seuss, as most of us know, was the beloved author of more than 60 children's books since his first, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, in 1937. I remember reading and listening to his books when I was growing up, and reading them to my own daughters when they were younger. This week, I had the great pleasure of reading Dr. Seuss stories to students at Clara Barton, as pictured above, and Richard Stockton Elementary Schools. To see students' eyes light up when they hear the funny rhymes and see the whimsical illustrations is a delight for me.

As lighthearted and fanciful as Dr. Seuss books are, they have been incredibly important in teaching young readers to follow a plot, expand their vocabulary, explore their world (*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*), be kind to the environment (*The Lorax*) and to each other (*Horton Hears a Who*). The list goes on of positive lessons from Dr. Seuss stories.

Beyond these lessons is the fact that reading enjoyable books fosters a love of reading. It's what we in the Cherry Hill Public Schools encourage and mentor in all of our students – to develop a love of reading and carry it through life, so that they truly will be lifelong learners.

Even though Read Across America Week has come to a close, I encourage all of you to keep the celebration of reading alive at home. Read to and with your children at every opportunity. Discuss the books you love and interesting articles you've read. Stop by the library and pick out new titles – and get a library card if you haven't already.

To quote Dr. Seuss, from *I Can Read with My Eyes*

## [Cherry Hill East Spring Musical](#)

Beauty and the Beast

March 4, 7:30 pm

March 5 & 6, 2 pm

"Brunch with Belle" March 5, noon

See the [CHEast Theater Web Page](#) for details

## [BOE Work Session](#)

March 8 @ 7 pm,

Malberg Administration

Building, 45 Ranoldo

Terrace

## [Deadline for Volley for Support T-shirt Orders](#)

March 9

See the [Cherry Hill Public Schools Facebook Page](#) for order form

## [Schools Closed](#)

Spring Recess

March 21-25

*Shut:* "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

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.



## Schools Get into the Spirit of Read Across America Week

All CHPS elementary schools and the Barclay Early Childhood Center took part in Read Across America Week the week of February 29. The celebration of reading centers around Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2. Students and staff marked



## Beck Students Set Record in Spirit Week Charity Fundraising

The Henry C. Beck Middle School Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored their annual Spirit Week the week of February 29. The theme for this year was "Bruno Goes to Disney World," referring to Bruno the Bobcat, Beck's school mascot.

This week full of fun



## Where Are They Now?

For Cherry Hill High School East graduate Keisha (Blount) Nelson ('05), the path that led her back to Cherry Hill and her current position as Student Advocate at Cherry Hill High School West was forged by her desire to give back to her community.

the occasion throughout the week in a number of ways.

Guest readers visited many classrooms. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche, pictured at the top of this newsletter reading to students at Clara Barton Elementary School, also read at Richard Stockton Elementary School. Board of Education President [Mrs. Carol Matlack read to students at Stockton](#) as well.

Other guest readers around the district included secondary level principals, such as Cherry Hill High School East Principal Dr. Lawyer Chapman at the Barclay School, pictured above with Barclay Principal Mrs. Karen Rockhill. District administrators, Town Council members and members of the Cherry Hill Police Department were among other guest readers.



Students got into the spirit of reading by participating in events such as "Crazy Sock Day," pictured above, and by dressing up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters, such as "The Lorax" pictured below.

activities during and after school began with a kickoff assembly, pictured above. All week, grade levels competed against each other to earn Spirit Week points. Capping off the week was a 2 1/2 hour assembly and a school-wide dance.

While students demonstrated their school spirit participating in the wide variety of activities, it was the annual focus of raising money for a worthwhile charity that created the most spirit. Each core team of students selected a boy and girl -- Mr. and Miss Bobcat candidates -- who would help raise money for charity. The team who raised the largest amount of money would be crowned Spirit Week 2016 Mr. and Miss Bobcat.

This year, the Social Action Committee of the SGA chose the Make-A-Wish Foundation as their charity of choice, as they believe the charity's goals matched that of Disney: making wishes come true.



The final fundraising results are still being tabulated. Early results show that Beck students raised more money than any other Spirit Week in the school's history -- more than \$6,500. Way to go Beck community!

Mrs. Nelson first came to the Cherry Hill Schools as a fourth grader and attended J.F. Cooper Elementary School. She was in the inaugural seventh grade class of Rosa International Middle School when it opened in the fall of 1998.

"Some of my favorite memories were at Rosa," she recalls. "I felt that I really blossomed in that communal environment, and enjoyed being a part of the beginning stages of the school's development."

After high school, Mrs. Nelson attended Howard University with the intent of entering the medical field.

"I was most impacted by an internship with Philadelphia Freedom Schools, which solidified my true passion for education," she says. She later attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied reading, writing and literacy and received her certification as a Reading Specialist.

At Penn, Mrs. Nelson became interested in community engagement and positive youth development. She returned to DC and began her career as a Youth Developer at The Latin American Youth Center.



Congratulations to all of our enthusiastic readers, and to our staff who helped make Read Across America Week a great success!

She returned to Cherry Hill in 2013 for her current job at West. "A big factor in my decision to return back to my home district was that I value giving back," Mrs. Nelson says. "I strive to pour my gifts and talents into my community."

In addition to working for the District, Mrs. Nelson and her husband Cleveland own a performing arts company, Black Broadway, which works with the African American Culture Clubs and the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association to produce an annual production for the Cherry Hill Community each year.

Her advice for students now? "Take risks and explore their gifts," she says. "Take advantage of the courses and electives we offer in order to learn your gifts. Don't be afraid to fail or make mistakes. Keep a positive attitude and always give back!"

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