

— CUFSD NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

HOME OF THE HAMBLETONIANS

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FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT

CATHERINE
O'HARA

As the holiday season approaches, we celebrate our shared commitment to fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to succeed.

The growth of essential skills across content areas and the development of strong academic foundations remain central to our mission, preparing students for future success. We are focused on delivering innovative, career-connected learning experiences, supported by our dedicated teachers and staff.

Together, we strive to strengthen communication, foster meaningful connections within our community, and enhance facilities to create opportunities for all students.

We extend heartfelt holiday wishes to our teachers, staff, students, parents, families, and the entire Chester community. May this season and the year ahead bring you joy, health, happiness and continued success!

HARMONIZING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Chester Academy Carolers Spread Cheer at CES

Members of the Chester Academy Voice Ensemble, directed by Rachel Scali, visited the elementary school on Friday, December 20, to spread some festive cheer in the form of Christmas carols and other seasonal songs. The carolers walked the halls and popped into classrooms, singing carols and prompting more than one sing-a-long!

Another longstanding Voice Ensemble holiday tradition is their annual performance at the Glen Arden Residency. They were there on Thursday, along with a small group of Chester instrumentalists.



Family Instructional Academy



Maintaining open communication with parents and guardians is one of our district's primary goals. The Family Instructional Academy helps do that by gathering and addressing the input provided, through a year-long family workshop series.

Workshop themes are based on input from the community and our Parent Advisory Panel, as well as timely topics affecting the world of education.

The next Family Instructional Academy workshops are scheduled for February 6 and March 20.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 23 - January 3
Winter Recess

January 17
Half Day - Students

January 21 - 24
Regents Exams

January 23
CES Winter Concert

January 8
Board of Education Meeting

January 20
MLK, Jr. Day No School

January 22
BOE Meeting

January 29
Lunar New Year, No School



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Chester Academy Winter Concert Series delivers the holiday spirit



FROM THE
CA PRINCIPAL

JOHN
FLANAGAN

The halls of Chester Academy were filled with music and pride as our middle and high school students delivered an outstanding Winter Concert performance this month. The dedication, talent, and teamwork of our young musicians was on display, captivating the audience and embodying the spirit of the season. We commend all the students who participated, as well as our music department, for their hard work and exceptional artistry.

We are also excited to introduce the Chester Academy community to the Seal of Civic Readiness. This prestigious New York State graduation credential celebrates students who demonstrate an understanding of civic responsibility and engagement. By earning this seal, students enhance their resumes for college and career opportunities, while also displaying their commitment to making a positive impact on their communities. To support this initiative, Chester Academy will be utilizing Passport for Good, a digital platform designed to track student progress toward the Seal of Civic Readiness. This tool will help students document their volunteer hours, participation in civic-related activities, and other qualifying experiences. We encourage students and families to explore this opportunity to recognize the ways students contribute to their community and develop as active citizens.

I wish everyone in the Chester community a safe and healthy holiday break!

Our incredible students impressed the community with their beautiful choral performances and lively energy from the band. Their talent and commitment truly captured the holiday spirit! Thank you so much to our music department for their devotion and dedication to our students and the arts.



A round of applause to our talented middle school students for their memorable performances during the Winter Concert! From the heartfelt harmonies of the chorus to the phenomenal sounds of the band, their hard work truly shined through. Thank you for filling the season with joy and music.



Voice Ensemble performs at Radio City Music Hall

For the second year in a row, the Chester Academy Voice Ensemble brought their talents down to New York City to sing holiday melodies at Radio City Music Hall, opening up the reputable Rockettes in their Christmas Spectacular Show on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Under the direction of Rachel Scali, music teacher at Chester Academy, students performed two songs for the audience: "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas" and "White Winter Hymnal," which the students created their own body percussion to by snapping and tapping their hand to the beat of the song.

Many of the students' families and community members made their way into the city to witness the magical performance. [Read the full story here!](#)



Chester Academy artists paint the town



Marie Kriner's upper level art classes have once again picked up their paint brushes and palettes to paint the town with holiday spirit! Chester Academy students spread cheer by participating in the annual Holiday Window Painting on local businesses along Main Street. Bundle up and take a wintry stroll to enjoy the festive artwork and soak in the holiday magic!



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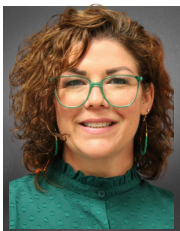
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FROM THE
CES PRINCIPAL

MARY KATE
BOESCH

As we wrap up December, I want to take a moment to reflect on the exciting events and accomplishments from this past month.

At our recent PBIS assembly, we celebrated the hard work and positive behavior of our students. A total of 26 students earned a spot in the Winner's Circle, and 24 students had the opportunity to spin the prize wheel. As well, 5 staff members received shout-outs for their dedication and support of our students.

I am happy to share that our 5th Grade Student Representatives have been established and held their first meeting on December 9th. These student leaders will play a key role in planning end-of-year 5th-grade events, ensuring student voices are heard, and identifying areas of improvement within our school. Together, we will work towards achieving common goals that benefit our entire school community.

Another exciting announcement is this year's launch of the CES Broadcast Team! The team recently put out a short promo clip, and we are eagerly anticipating their first full edition, which will be shared with families at the end of December via ParentSquare and CUFSO social media.

Wishing all of our students, families, and staff a happy, healthy, and restful winter break. Thank you for your continued support of CES!

See you in the New Year!

CES is in the holiday spirit this week



Students and staff at Chester Elementary School were in the holiday spirit this week, preparing for the most magical time of the year! These types of initiatives are essential to not only get students excited for the new year, but also reinforce important lessons of gratitude, empathy and teamwork.



Monday, students were able to cozy up in scarves and gloves and nuzzle up with a good read. Tuesday was Dress Up for Your Favorite Holiday – Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's, Easter, Valentine's Day, 4th of July, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving... anything goes!



Wednesday was Game Day Fun! Students brought in their favorite game to play with friends. Many brought memorization cards or other educational activities. Thursday, students were decked out in their most festive holiday gear including sweaters and socks! The week ended with Pajama Day, where students prepared for a perfect winter break in their comfiest PJs.

December PBIS assembly recognizes non-naughty list behavior

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports. PBIS helps establish clear behavioral expectations for students while they are at school and teaches them the skills to achieve those expectations. PBIS gives us a proactive approach to addressing student behavior, one that is preemptive rather than punitive.

At CES, we focus on recognizing and rewarding positive behaviors that contribute to our positive school environment, one where every Hambo can thrive!

On December 2, CES held another PBIS celebration assembly. Many PBIS chips were awarded and prizes bestowed.

Great job to everyone who earned their PBIS chips for behaving so nicely in November!



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