



The *WEST* WORD

Cherry Hill HS West PTA, 2101 Chapel Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
<http://west.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/>

A Message from the Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians,
and Friends:

I send you greetings on
behalf of the entire faculty
of HS West! It is hard to
believe we are now in the
final month of the school

year. This school year has been an excellent
year at HS West. Our students have excelled in
the classroom, on the stage, and in athletic com-
petition. It is my belief that successful children
are the product of parents who diligently work
with them and demand excellence from them,
so I thank you for your efforts in that regard.

Specifically, I would like to personally thank the
parents of our graduating members of the Class
of 2015 for their support, and for allowing us to
be a part of their child's life.

As we move into the summer vacation
season, it is important that our students remain
actively engaged in cognitively enriching activi-
ties during the summer months. Typically, we
find that students experience a learning lag in the
summer in which they lose some of the
knowledge they have gained during a given

school year. As a result, we are required to
"jumpstart" some of the children in September to
get them back into the learning mode. An easy
way to prevent the summer lag is to ensure that
your children complete their summer reading
assignments. Although they are mandatory, the
summer reading assignments allow our students
to read, write, and respond to literature in a non-
stressful manner.

Please know that it has been my pleasure
to work with you during this school year. I will
sincerely miss our graduating members of the
Class of 2015 for they have made significant
contributions to HS West. Moving forward, I am
confident about the direction that we are headed
as an institution, and I anticipate that many great
things are in store for the incoming and remaining
students of HS West. Have a happy and healthy
summer!

Sincerely,
Dr. Kwame R. Morton, Sr.
Principal



Ready to contribute to West?

Let's dispel a common myth about PTA or any other volunteer position: **It doesn't take a lot of time to make a big difference.**

Please consider how you could make a difference in the CHHS West community next year. From taking on a leadership position to baking or making phone calls, everyone can do something. **Explore all the available opportunities on page 6** of this newsletter. Thank you!

You're happiest
while you're
making the
greatest
contribution.
Robert F. Kennedy

West Musicians & Vocal Performers in Top Form at Heritage Music Festival and NJ State Jazz Competition



The West Music Department back in April traveled to Boston, MA for a Heritage Music Festival competing against schools from six states. On the vocal side the

Junior Steve Kummer (Drum Set) won the Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award. The instrumentalists also won the Instrumental Sweepstakes Trophy for having the highest combined score of two groups entered. The entire department won the **FESTIVAL SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY** for having the two highest combined scores in the entire festival (Fermata and Jazz Ensemble). Congrats to our fine musicians.

Symphonic Choir received a Silver Rating as did the Men of Note. West Singers, Chamber Singers, and Fermata all received Gold Ratings with Fermata winning the Best Overall Choir Award. The vocal department also won the Sweepstakes Trophy for having the two highest combined scores of multiple groups entered in the festival. All three groups with Gold Ratings received invitations to perform next year at Carnegie Hall in NYC.

The West Jazz Ensemble, for the second year in a row, qualified for the New Jersey State Jazz Championships, which were held at Princeton High School. To qualify for the finals there are five nights of Preliminaries across the state, 9 bands each, and the top 9 scoring bands reach the finals. At the prelims, Junior drummer Steve Kummer won one of the four Outstanding Soloist Awards given out.

On the instrumental side the String Orchestra received a Silver Rating and was only 1 point off of winning the Best Overall trophy. The Combined Bands placed second but received a Gold Rating and an invitation to Carnegie Hall for next year. The Jazz Ensemble placed first, received a Gold Rating, won the trophy for Best Overall Instrumental Group, the Adjudicator's Trophy for having the highest combined score out of all groups at the festival.

The band placed 9th at the finals but with 14 new members and 7 freshmen in the group just getting there was a major achievement in itself.

Mr. Jim Mark
Director of Instrumental Music/Cherry Hill High School West
856-663-8006 x1340
www.chwestinstrumentalmusic.com

Message from the PTA President

Dear West Families,

It is difficult to believe, but yes, we are quickly approaching the end of another school year at High School West. In just two short weeks, our amazing seniors will be graduating, and we will all be celebrating the beginning of summer in various ways.

My letter will be short, but as usual will encourage you to continue to be involved until the very end of this year. Specifically, we need your assistance to make Project Graduation a success. Our PG team has been working diligently throughout the year, but we still need volunteers the night of PG. It takes many people to make this night run smoothly. For more information, please come to our last PG Meeting of the year this coming Monday June 8th at 7pm in the library. If you cannot attend this meeting but still wish to help the night of the event (June 17th), contact Connie Spencer at constancespencer@verion.net.

Thanks to those of you who were involved with the PTA this year. Whether you joined, attended meetings, worked an event, sent in food, purchased mums, contributed an idea, we thank you. Your participation on behalf of your child and all students at West is greatly appreciated. If you didn't have a chance to help this year, there is always next year! We encourage and welcome any contribution you make. Lastly, please consider being a PTA Board member next year. We still have a couple of open positions and would welcome your willingness to help and your participation.

Have a wonderful and restful summer,

Sincerely,

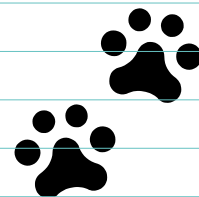
Kris Walters, President West PTA

Thank You for Supporting PTA

The PTA would like to thank you for your support. Whether you helped by donating your time, by attendance at a meeting, by joining PTA, making a donation, or supporting our fundraising throughout the year, we thank you!

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Best regards,
Gina Onorato
V/P Membership



Project Graduation 2015 is Almost Here!



Project Graduation is almost here. The Class of 2015 has chosen the theme of "Born to be Wild"!

Balloon sales are due June 1. There are extra forms in the Student Activities Office.

PG tickets will be on sale starting Tuesday, June 2 in the Student Activities Office.

Tickets are \$25.00 cash

W E S T Many thanks to those who supported our many events and attended meetings to stuff envelopes and mailers!

Our final meeting will be Monday June 8, 7:00 pm at West in the Media Center.

At this meeting, we will participate in the final PTA meeting of the year, sign up for chaperone hours the night of PG and organize the student give-away bags!

We need all hands on deck the night of PG, June 17, please consider volunteering your time. The night goes fast and we need your help!

PLEASE LEND A HAND

Parents interested in helping, in any way, with PG, should contact any one of the PG Co-Chairs:

Lynn Clauss, at clausfam@verizon.net;

Gina Poserina, at rposerina@verizon.net or

Connie Spencer at constancespencer@verizon.net

or fill in the form on the next page and return it to Cherry Hill West PTA, Project Graduation, 2101 Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. Thank You!

What is Project Graduation?

Project Graduation (PG) is an important event in the life of a high school student and planning begins from the earliest days at West. Project Graduation is a program offered by many high schools in the United States, in which organized, adult-supervised and alcohol-free activities are offered as part of a post-graduation party, as an alternative to events which may include underage drinking or drug use. It is the perfect way for graduates to spend their last evening together as a class and celebrate their accomplishments. Cherry Hill High West has sponsored Project Graduation since 1991 and each year, the evening gets better and better! BUT....we need the West Community to rally and support Project Graduation fundraisers all year to participate in the planning. **Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior and Senior parents are encouraged to get involved.**





Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill NJ 08002

**I WANT TO HELP MAKE PROJECT GRADUATION 2015 A SUCCESS!
COUNT ME IN!**

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please return to: **Cherry Hill West PTA, Project Graduation, 2101 Chapel Avenue,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.**

Someone will contact you to discuss how you can support this year's
Project Graduation effort.

Thank You!

WAWA Shorti Hoagies and Project Graduation 2014/2015

What? Wawa 6-inch shorti hoagie coupons for \$3.75 each

Why? Great for school trips and last minute meals
No expiration date and they're delicious!
\$3.75 coupon is applicable towards any larger sandwich

Where? Coupons are redeemable at all area WAWA stores

How? Please return your orders to Susan Remphrey, 202 Pearlcroft Rd.,
Cherry Hill, 08034 or at Suzrem5@gmail.com or call her at 609-828-5125.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT GRADUATION!

I'm ordering ___ Wawa shorti hoagie coupons @ \$3.75 each

Name _____
Address _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to Cherry Hill West PTA



Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill NJ 08002

WANTED: Parents or Guardians who can make a difference!

The Cherry Hill West PTA Nominating Committee is looking to fill the Executive Board positions for the 2015-2016 school year. The Executive Board positions and their job descriptions are as follows:

PTA PRESIDENT

- Run General Membership Meetings in Sept., Nov., Feb., April and June.
- Hold Executive Board meetings once a month.
- Hold Executive Board meetings with Principal immediately prior to each PTA meeting.
- Attend Zone PTA meetings once a month or designate a Zone Representative to attend.
- Speak at Freshman Orientation in Aug. about PTA at West and encourage parents to get involved by joining PTA.
- Write "President's Message" for the West Word published in Sept., Nov., Feb., April and June (review and approve newsletter before it goes to print).
- Set calendar in June for the next school year with Student Activities (dates of PTA meetings, PG meeting dates, Teacher Luncheon date).
- Notify Channel 19 (Contact: Barbara Wilson at bwilson@chclc.org) about meeting dates
- Attend Camden County PTA dinner meetings held 3 times a year (or have someone attend to represent West).

VICE-PRESIDENT: WAYS & MEANS (FUNDRAISING)

- Presents fundraising ideas and options to the PTA Executive Board at the summer meetings to set fundraisers for the year.
- Coordinates and runs all PTA fundraising events.

Vice-President: Project Graduation

- Chair or Co-Chair of Project Graduation – runs this event the night of graduation and all fundraisers pertaining to PG.
- Speak briefly at Freshman Orientation in Aug. about PG.

Vice-President: Volunteers

- Secures volunteers for all PTA events and select school events.
- Assists the Cherry Hill Public Library with the organization of the Volunteer Fair in the Fall.

Vice-President: Membership

- Run membership drive – collect money, print cards, and file paperwork with NJPTA.
- Maintain email list.

Vice-President: Hospitality

- Provides refreshments for PTA meetings and other PTA events.
- Coordinates the Teacher/Staff Luncheon in May.

Secretary

- Records minutes at PTA meetings and Executive meetings.
- Provides copies of previous meeting's minutes for approval at the general membership meeting.
- Sends and receives all correspondence.
- Sends out email reminders.

Treasurer

- Maintains financial records.
- Files tax forms.
- All monetary transactions – writing checks, disbursing funds, etc.
- Develops yearly budget.
- Maintains records for the PTA funds and PG funds within the PTA bank account.

WE NEED YOU!

All positions are for a term of one year. No prior experience is necessary to serve on the Executive Board! If you are interested in serving on the PTA Board for next year or for more information about each position, please contact the chairperson of the Nominating Committee: Jill Graham jillhelen@comcast.net

Learn More about Local Scholarships

Each year, West seniors are able to apply for over \$50,000 total worth of scholarships awarded to only West seniors.

For these awards, our students compete only with each other. The criteria for each award varies. However, many require an essay, an official transcript, test scores, a resume, and in some instances an interview. The effort spent applying for these scholarships is worthwhile as the odds of receiving the award increase with this smaller pool of applicants. These scholarships are called "local scholarships." The local scholarships will now contain in the heading the words:

For West Seniors Only.

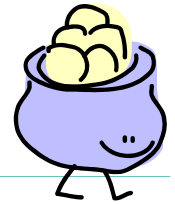
Some, but not all, of the local scholarships are: The Cherry Hill Rotary Scholarship, The Nan Lightstone Memorial Scholarship, The Lions Pride Alumni Association, The Mark Homan Foundation Scholarship, and The Cherry Hill African American Civic Association Scholarship.

On a yearly basis, I contact the Cherry Hill organizations and the private donors who are often the

families of the person for whom the scholarship is named, to confirm the existence of the scholarship and the current amount to be awarded. At times, the donors have wanted to discontinue the scholarship, however, I was able to convince them not to do so. Herein lies the frustration: It is so difficult to get our seniors to apply for these scholarships even though I am sure they could use the money.

Despite repeated efforts to get students to apply, some of these awards have no more than one or two applicants.

Seniors, do not let the word "essay" cause you to miss an opportunity. With well-placed effort in life, you can reap rewards. Apply for as many scholarships as possible, but especially for the local scholarships.



Michelle Pryor
School Counselor/Scholarship Coordinator
(856) 663-8006 Extension 1212
mpryor@chclc.org

Student Assistance Program

Cherry Hill Schools has provided a Student Assistance Counseling Program for many years. In addition to the traditional guidance services offered in the school the Student Assistance Program is intended to address personal issues early as a means of prevention. The Student Assistant Counselors, Mrs. Barbara Rakoczy at West, (663-8006, ext. 1216), Mrs. Jennifer Distefano, at East (424-2222, ext. 2548), and Mrs. Molly Crincoli (429-5600, ext. 455) at Malberg each have a Master's Degree in Counseling in addition to a certification as Substance Awareness Coordinators or Student Assistance Counselors (SAC).

Student Assistance is a confidential counseling program designed to help students and families with a broad spectrum of issues. The counseling program provides a safe haven for students to explore difficult and sometimes sensitive issues so they can develop a positive plan for coping or change. In the past, students have received help managing stress, parental separation/ divorce, peer conflicts, grief, eating disorders, depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Student Assistance is often viewed as family assistance, since many times the entire family is offered assistance in managing a difficult situation.

Peer support groups are also offered on a voluntary basis. Though the groups are not therapy, they provide a safe environment where students may receive peer support, gain education around a specific issue or concern, and develop listening and coping skills that will assist them in both school and at home.

In addition to self-referrals, many students make contact with the Student Assistance Counselor as a result of a caring teacher, administrator, nurse, guidance counselor, friend or parent who requests an appointment for a student. If you would like to make a referral or discuss a concern, please contact the SAC in your student's school at the telephone numbers indicated above.

Cherry Hill High School West PTA 2014-2015 Officers

President

Kris Walters

kristinwalters1@verizon.net**Vice President****Membership**

Regina Onorato

ronorato121@comcast.net**Vice President****Ways and Means**

Andrea Gurst

dagurst@comcast.net**Secretary**

Kristi Paulson

kristipaulson@verizon.net**Vice President****Volunteers**

Jill Graham

jillhelen@comcast.net**Treasurer**

Kelly Bivins

kellybivins@verizon.net**Vice President****Hospitality**

Joanne Fisher

analam@verizon.net

**Please Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!
Upcoming PTA & PG Meeting Schedule...**

PTA MEETING DATES:**June 8****PG MEETING DATES:****June 8****TIME:****7:00 PM****TIME:****7:00 PM****LOCATION:****Library****LOCATION:****Library**

Cyber-Harassment is Now A Criminal Act in NJ

Cyber-harassment is now it's own criminal act in New Jersey. Effective January 17, 2014, the New Jersey criminal code now includes a separate and distinct offense for cyber-harassment, targeting online communications meant to harm, annoy, or threaten another. Depending on the age of both the target harassed, as well as the individual(s) making the online statements, the offense can be charged as either a third or fourth degree indictable (felony) offense.

What is Cyber-Harassment Under NJ Law?

A person commits cyber-harassment much the same as a traditional harassment scenario, which involves a communication with a purpose to harass another, either through a physical threat to inflict injury or commit a crime against the person, or by conveying lewd, indecent or obscene material with such purpose as to emotionally harm another. The law is stated as follows:

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4.1. Cyber-harassment

a. A person commits the crime of cyber-harassment if, while making a communication in an online capacity via any electronic device or through a social networking site and with the purpose to harass another, the person:

(1) threatens to inflict injury or physical harm to any person or the property of any person;

(2) knowingly sends, posts, comments, requests, suggests, or proposes any lewd, indecent, or obscene material to or about a person with the intent to emotionally harm a reasonable person or place a reasonable person in fear of physical or emotional harm to his person; or

(3) threatens to commit any crime against the person or the person's property.

CHERRY HILL TOWNSHIP PTA

Cherry Hill HS West PTA

P.O. Box 5015

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No.28

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034