

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

## Superintendent's Newsletter: June 2017

Dear Parent,

Congratulations on making it through another year in your child(ren)'s education! As we close out the school year, I would like to highlight a few events and items of interest.

First, we have been steadily working on advancing all of the construction projects approved via the September 2016 referendum. Periodic updates will be posted at [this page](#) of the district website. Here is a snapshot of where we are for each project:

- ⇒ **Cougar Field:** Construction has begun and will continue throughout the summer.
- ⇒ **Roof Replacements at CMS, LAF, and CHS:** Construction is scheduled to begin the week of June 26.
- ⇒ **CMS Classroom Renovations and Asbestos Abatement around Perimeter of Auditorium:** Construction is scheduled to begin the week of June 26.
- ⇒ **CHS/LAF Auditorium Renovation:** Project is scheduled to be re-advertised for bidding by July 4.
- ⇒ **MAS Classroom Addition:** Project is scheduled to be advertised for bidding by August 1.
- ⇒ **CMS STEM Addition:** Project is scheduled to be advertised for bidding by August 1.
- ⇒ **CMS Auditorium Renovation:** Project will not commence until CHS Auditorium renovation is complete.

In addition to the above projects, the district will execute other projects and conduct standard maintenance this summer, so many of our schools will be busy with activity. All schools will remain open throughout the summer, but should you need to visit a building for one reason or another, please call ahead of time to avoid any inconvenience.

Apart from construction, this has been another terrific school year with respect to the successes and accomplishments of our students. Our athletic teams, artists, musicians, and straight-up academicians all shined over the course of the year, and I congratulate them, our teachers, and you on what we have collectively achieved. With a few extra minutes on your hands in the coming months, one fun way to take stock of some of what has taken place in the district is to watch some [Pulse Episodes on CHS TV](#). The Pulse is the product of our television production course at the high school, and students in the course cover a wide range of events and topics in the district.

I hope that you enjoy the summertime and that your children have the opportunity to unplug and rejuvenate. Thank you for all of your ongoing support of our school district!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent of Schools

# Inaugural District-Wide Art Show

Thanks to a generous grant from the Chatham Education Foundation, our fine art teachers from all six schools put on the first-ever District Art Show. The teachers selected works representing every grade level in the district, and displayed the pieces in the upper gymnasium of the middle school. In case you missed it, you may view a quick [video of the displays](#); below are the **high-school**-level award winners, based on visitor voting.



*Burning the Candle at Both Ends,*  
Natalie Charewicz (2nd place, 2D)



*Carvel,* Dani Coates (1st Place and Best in Show, 2D)



*Fake ID,* Lisa Steward (3rd place, 2D)



*Octopus,* Adam Oare (2nd place, 3D)



*Puppy Mill,* Elizabeth Heyl (1st place, 3D)



*Heart Pendant,*  
Stephanie Crater (2nd place, 3D)

## Read to Roof

During the month of May, three classes at SBS embarked on an exciting adventure called the [Read to Roof challenge through Heart for People](#). This program encourages children to make a difference for students in Uganda, Africa - simply by reading! Ms. Killea, Mrs. DePascale and Mrs. Izsa's classes have teamed up with SBS paraprofessional Emma Worrall on engaging in this program. Students in these three classes will help the Sirimuli Community Primary School in Kiboga, Uganda, by obtaining pledges for their reading, and dedicating collected funds to the construction of classrooms for the Ugandan children. US currency goes a long way in Uganda, and these efforts will help to significantly increase learning across the globe. Pictured right are students participating in a video chat with students in Kiboga.



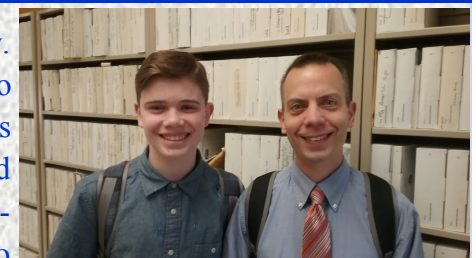
## CMS Goes to Washington



This May marked Chatham Middle School's third annual eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. This trip complements our eighth-grade civics course, with visits to the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial, and other museums and monuments along the Mall. Pictured to the left are CMS students (in fluorescent green shirts) observing a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I would like to give a special thanks to all of our CMS teachers and staff members who volunteered to attend this three-day trip with over 350 middle schoolers!

## Shadow a Student

Over the course of the spring, district administrators and supervisors took part in a student shadowing activity. The purpose of the activity, based on an international program called the "[Shadow a Student Challenge](#)," is to remind those of us who make decisions *for* students on a daily basis what it is like *to be* a student. Each of us accompanied a CHS or a CMS student to her or his classes for as much of the school day as our schedules would allow. While we were not able to duplicate the ins and outs of social networks, homework, testing, extracurricular activities, and so forth, we certainly gained some perspective on what it is like to move from classroom to classroom at our schools, and how it feels to be a student again. I would like to thank the students for putting up with us and showing us the ropes!



# Historic Times at Lafayette Avenue School



This June, for the first time ever, the Lafayette Avenue School music department held its spring concerts outdoors. The weather cooperated and families got to take in the singing and instrumental music as the sun set over the school. Congratulations to all of our student musicians!



As just about everyone in Chatham knows, the district celebrated an unprecedented accomplishment this year—the attainment of 50 years of service of one of our teachers, Janet Kraemer. Ms. Kraemer teaches art at LAF and is the founder and creator of the “Head Show,” a Chatham tradition that needs no explanation. This year, organizers of the Independence Day Parade in Chatham Borough have invited students and alumni who would like to march in the parade with their “LAF heads” to [register in advance](#) and join the celebration. Congratulations, Janet!



**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**