

Collaborating for Success!

December 2009



Save the Dates:

- Board Meeting: **Tuesday, 12/8 at 7pm in the Common Room**
- Report Card Conferences and Distribution: **Friday 12/11 from 3:15-6:00pm**
- NCLB Parent Meeting: **Wednesday, 12/16 at 6pm**
- 12:30pm Early Dismissal: **Wednesday, 12/23**
- School Closed: **12/24 to 1/2, 2010 for Winter Break. School reopens Monday 1/4/09**

We wish you
peace,
happiness, and
health this
holiday
season!
*Greetings from
the Pride
Academy staff
and
administration.*



The Season of Peace

The upcoming holiday season is a time of excitement and joy as we begin to focus on making preparations for holiday gifting and hospitality. However, the potential for breaks in routine and increased responsibilities, changes in structure and family situations, mood swings and stressed emotions can blur our focus on the restorative spirit of Peace that the holiday season represents. We can become so distracted around the holidays, that we don't always take the time to do what Eleanor Roosevelt speaks to in being deliberate about seeking and creating peace in our lives,

In school, the activities and changes around the holiday season can bring feelings of happiness as students anticipate newness and fun activities, but they can also lead to feelings of anxiety and hurt, as they find themselves coping with unfamiliar places, people, and expectations, and perhaps, disappointments. Our challenge then becomes how best to manage these feelings in positive and appropriate ways so that they don't lead to bullying, violence, and distraction from learning.

Please model and share these tips to help cope with the stress and changes in routine as the holiday season approaches, and the range of emotions that can result: **Maintain home routines** as much as possible, such as meal times, bed times, reading-together times, and homework expectations.

Time Out - when you are angry or hurt, walk away and find a safe place to vent and calm down before reacting. **Talk it out** with a trusted friend or adult.

"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." -Eleanor Roosevelt

Be empathetic! Put yourself in the other person's shoes and try to understand the other point of view. **Take responsibility** for your own actions, words, looks - they have the power to hurt or heal the other person.

Apologize! Take care of the hurt that you may have caused and begin to repair the damage by apologizing. When an apology is sincere, it is one of the most courageous and noble actions that you can take.

Avoid "he said/she said" gossip at all costs! Rumors and backhand comments fuel the fire of hurt feelings. Associate with people who will help you shine and stand tall and be the 'bigger' person.

Take an active role in avoiding the commercialism of the holiday season. Try to make it less about buying and receiving things, and more about appreciating each other, our health, our family, our homes, and about giving the simplest and most enduring gifts of all - a smile, a thank you, an act of kindness and caring, and special quality time spent between parent and child.

Let's all work together to ensure that we uphold the promise of justice in all that we say and do this month, and keep the message of peace and goodwill in this season alive and sustaining.

Report Card Conferences

Please make every effort to come to school on Report Conference afternoon on **Friday, December 11th between 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm** to pick up your child's report card and meet with teachers. In order to encourage parent participation and attendance, we will be holding a raffle. Each parent who attends report card night will receive one chance in the raffle. The lucky winner will receive an elegant Dooney and Burke purse with estimated value of \$195. Report cards will not be mailed or sent home with your child. In order to ensure that your meetings with teachers are productive, please consider these tips:

- Prepare your questions in advance.
- Let the teachers know what your concerns are and what you feel is important for them to know about how your child learns.
- Ask to look at your child's work.
- Be open-minded in working with the teacher to develop an action plan to help address any concerns that you may have.
- Share your expertise about your child to help the teachers understand how best to work with your child.
- Share any situations that may be going on at home that may be impacting your child's academic performance or behavior.
- Be prepared to hear good news as well as perhaps hearing news that may be disappointing or surprising. Your children's teachers may have insights and knowledge about your child's learning that you may not have heard before. Be open to discussing these calmly and professionally.
- After the conference, be sure to take time to sit down with your child to discuss his/her report. Celebrate the good and address the concerns by coming up with a plan to make improvements.

Help Us Keep Your Family Healthy this Flu Season

If your child has not yet been vaccinated, complete the H1N1 flu vaccination consent forms so that your child can be vaccinated here at Pride.

Teach your children to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water or a hand sanitizer, cover their noses/mouths when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used tissues appropriately.

Keep your child home if he/she is sick or has flu like symptoms or any sign of fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or more) and keep your child home until he/she is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines.

If your child is absent from school because of flu like symptoms, please call the Main Office to let us know that your child will be absent and tell us the symptoms that he/she has so that we can monitor our overall absenteeism rate and tailor our school wide response accordingly.

Reinforce with your children appropriate use of the soap/paper towels provided in our restrooms.

Please consider donating boxes of tissues and alcohol-based hand sanitizers to your child's homeroom teacher so that we can always have these materials available for your children on a regular basis in every classroom.

NJASK High Achievers! by Ms Dumenigo

The NJASK State assessments that we prepare our students for in the Spring of each year are important measures of your children's achievement and they are also important opportunities for your children to demonstrate their brilliance and how much they have learned over the course of the year. During our Thanksgiving Assembly on Wednesday, November 25th we recognized students who achieved the highest scores in their grade for the 2008-2009 NJASK assessment results. We congratulate the following students and use this opportunity of celebration to encourage all of our students to continue to work hard, to persevere even if the work is hard, and to take the NJASK assessments and preparation for success in the assessment seriously.

We proudly announce the following student award winners:

Grade 5 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Language Arts:

Stephanie Peart; Brittany Wallace and Chyna Munford

Grade 5 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Math:

Taysir Keys; Emeline Espinal and Alexis Smith

Grade 6 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Language Arts:

Simone Wilson; Hafsa Atthahabi; Precious Ajibade

Grade 6 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Math:

Triston Cordis; Simone Wilson; Shantai Dreweary

Grade 7 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Language Arts:

Tiquajah Bishop; Tisha Parks; Julio Rivera

Grade 7 Highest NJASK Score Winners in Language Arts:

Tiara Youngblood; Azia Daniels; Bryant Hall



HSP Tips for Success! by Mr. Silver

High School Applications

The high school/scholarship application is more than just another form to fill out! It is an opportunity for your child to present his/her case for acceptance at a school of choice. Therefore, it is crucial that each application is treated seriously, and that it reflects your own high standards. Encourage your son/daughter to be:

On time - meet the application deadlines.

Thorough - no short answer question or section should be left unanswered.

Persuasive - make sure that each answer is thoughtful and interesting, and presents the student in the best possible light.

Neat - draft and revise before writing the final copy of the application in your best penmanship. Then proofread carefully to check for errors; scratch outs are not acceptable!

Parents, you play such an important role in this process! You can set a strong example by being involved in what your child is writing, completing the parent section of high school applications with supportive and detailed answers, and meeting all application, interview, admission test, and financial aid deadlines.

Please contact Mr. Silver if you are unsure of admissions entrance test and scholarship deadlines. Your active involvement and support are keys to your child's success!