



Save the Dates:

- Early Dismissal: **Friday, 2/5 at 12:30 pm**
- Board Meeting: **Tuesday 2/9 at 6pm**
- Black History Month OKRA Dance Presentation: **Thursday 2/11 9:45 for 5th and 6th graders; 10:45 for 7th and 8th graders**
- Friendship Dance Yearbook Fundraiser: **Friday 2/12 5-7pm for 5th and 6th graders; 6-9pm for 7th/8th graders**
- School Closed: **2/15 for President's Day**
- Parent Council Meeting: **Thursday 2/18 at 6pm**
- LINKS, Inc Workshop: **Tuesday 2/23 4pm**



Celebration in Dance!

On Thursday, Feb 11, 2010, Pride Academy will host the OKRA Dance Company in a special performance entitled "Journey Into Africa". There will be dance, drumming, and also spoken words about the history and culture of Africa. The 5th/6th grade performance will be at 9:45am and the 7th/8th grade performance will be at 10:45am. Please come out and join us for an amazing experience!

Honoring our Collective Purpose in EFFORT!

February is an important month at Pride Academy because we have the opportunity to work together to celebrate, honor, and learn about African American History and the remarkable contributions that past and present role models have made and continue to make in our community. Two weeks ago Ms Cenac led the way in this purpose in an assembly that honored Martin Luther King Jr.

Students reflected on how Dr King's legacy has impacted our world and their opportunities, and they shared their personal dreams for peace, tolerance, and justice in our schools, streets, and neighborhoods. Every day in Morning Assembly this month, Mr. Powell will lead presentations that will teach about and honor the contributions and events of our African American heritage and history. Later this month, Ms Dumenigo has arranged for a dance company to visit our school to lead our students in a celebration of the history and culture of Africa.

This past week our nation's President, who leads our country at a time of struggle for so many of our citizens, delivered his State of the Union address. His words quoted above serves to remind us of the effort and determination that we must all practice as we work towards our goals and overcome the obstacles that may confront us. Let us all take the opportunity that this month gives us to remember, honor, and teach our children about the men and women in our past and those in our present who are exemplars of *decency and strength*, and who can show us the way when we feel like giving up, putting our heads down, or being distracted from our purpose.

Let's take time to teach, model, and practice what Pride Scholar EFFORT looks and sounds like because we understand that EFFORT magnifies our chances for success in the classroom, on the basketball court, and in life. Let's **set** the bar high because our children are brilliant and deserve excellence, unconditionally. Let's **insist** that our children settle for nothing less than the best in everything that they do from dressing in complete uniform each morning to completing homework every night with quality; from staying focused in class and asking questions when they don't understand to being respectful, courteous, and kind in all of their words and all of their actions. Let's hold them accountable for **producing** and help them understand that sitting back, playing small, and giving up are **not choices that we will accept**. Let's show them how to go **above and beyond** because that is what our neighborhood, community, and world need in order to heal, thrive, and strengthen. And then when our children show us their EFFORT – let's always make and take time to celebrate and honor their achievement.

"Despite our hardships, our union is strong. We do not give up. We do not quit. We do not allow fear or division to break our spirit. In this new decade, it's time the American people get a government that matches their decency, that embodies their strength."
-President Obama, State of the Union, 2010

Parent Council- Off to a Great Start!

On January 21, we had our first Parent Council meeting of the year. We had our best turnout in our history, and the enthusiasm and positive energy was flowing. The Parent Council set their goals for the year. We hope that the whole community will work to support the Parent Council in reaching the following:

- To increase parent support and participation through the development and implementation of an incentive program.
- To raise funds to provide Pride Academy students with cubbies or some type of storage for coats and books.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be **Thursday, Feb 18th at 6pm**. Please join us as we begin to develop action plans to reach these goals. **-by Ms Dumenigo**

High School Placement News!

PRIDE PLEDGE

I am responsible for my own destiny.

The choices I make today will determine tomorrow.

I HAVE PRIDE...

I will be a peacekeeper.

I HAVE PRIDE...

I will treat everyone with respect.

I HAVE PRIDE...

I will be trustworthy and do what's right.

I HAVE PRIDE...

I will believe in myself and never give up.

I HAVE PRIDE...

I will care for and value others.

As we let our pride shine, we promise to help others shine too.

WE HAVE PRIDE!

Congratulations to many of the 8th grade Pride students who have recently gained acceptance into a wide-range of parochial schools over the last week! You are commended for your hard-work, determination, and perseverance that you have displayed during the application process! The results have been impressive and satisfying, as you have overcome new challenges and worked extremely hard to work towards your goal of attending a high school of your choice. Schools including St. Benedicts Prep, St. Vincent Academy, Marist High School, Immaculate Conception of Montclair, Lacordaire Academy, Christ the King Prep, Mother Seton, Marylawn of the Oranges, Union Catholic High School, St. Anthony High School, and Seton Hall Prep are excited about the possibility of having you as a part of their learning community!

For students who were accepted into a school of their choice, it is imperative that you register at your school on **Saturday, February 6th**. At registration, you will not only assure yourself of a spot in their graduating class of 2014, but you will also be informed of a variety of scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Please see Mr. Silver for assistance with all financial aid applications and requests. Once you are registered at your school of choice, you can be confident that you will be challenged, satisfied, and motivated during your high school experience. Registering at your high school is of the utmost importance, not only because you will solidify your high school placement for 2010-2011, but also because it will help relieve much of the pressures of the high school placement process.

For those of you who were not accepted into a parochial school of your choice, or for those of you who were placed on the Waiting List at a school, be sure to arrange for an interview as soon as possible, in order to increase your chances of acceptance. All of you are skilled at interviewing, as you have developed confidence and self-awareness that will enable you to impress and understand the admissions officers you will meet. And as always, continue to do your very best in all of your classes, while living the Core Values, as many high schools will re-evaluate your applications based on your improved academics and behavioral standing in hopes of accepting you into their schools in the upcoming weeks.

Many students have also recently tested at area Magnet, Vocational, and Charter Schools, or have applied and interviewed at prestigious Private Day Schools and Boarding Schools. Congratulations on your diligence and attention to detail as you await the results of the schools' decisions.

Please contact Mr. Silver if you have any questions or are in need of assistance with anything regarding the high school placement process. I wish you the best of luck as you continue to prepare for the challenges and life-experiences that lie ahead of you in high school. *with Pride, by Mr. Silver*

We will hold another ENROLLMENT LOTTERY for 2010-2011
on

Thursday, March 4th at 5:00 pm.

If you know families who would like to enroll their children in our school for the upcoming school year, please share this information with them. They can pick up an application from Ms Popinko at the Main Office or download one from our website.

