

Collaborating for Success!

January 2010



Save the Dates:

- School Picture Day: **Friday 1/8**
- Board Meeting: **Tuesday, 1/12 at 6pm in the Common Room**
- 2010-2011 Enrollment Lottery: **Thursday, 1/14 at 5:00 pm**
- Interim Assessments in Math for all Students: **Wednesday 1/13,**
- 12:30pm Early Dismissal Professional Development Afternoon: **Thursday, 1/14**
- School Closed: **1/15 for Professional Development**
- School Closed: **1/18 for Martin Luther King Day**
- 2nd Trimester Progress Report Distribution and conferences: **Friday, 1/29**



Our enrollment lottery for the new school year, 2010-2011, will take place next Thursday, January 14th 2010 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.

New Year Resolutions

Magic Johnson's words emphasize the importance of letting our children know that they are ultimately responsible for working hard to achieve their dreams. While this is true, we also need to remember that we must help our children create their dreams and feel empowered not only to have them, but also to be proud of them. January is the perfect time to make plans; set goals; and shape future dreams. January marks the beginning of a New Year and the potential to make resolutions to affect positive changes in our lives.

As adults, we may sometimes feel that it is not really up to us if our children succeed or not. Rather, it depends more on our children's effort and dedication. This is partly true. However, our children's attitude and determination have a lot to do with us! Indeed, our children, especially our middle school-age scholars, can find ways to annoy and disappoint us. They may even pretend that they don't need our help and that we embarrass them. However, inside, they are craving our attention. They need and deserve our encouragement, discipline, and support in order to first create their dreams and then to continue on the right path to fulfill them. Here are some tips to help this happen:

Find out about and be enthusiastic about your child's interests, talents, and passions. Do research to find out how these interests can be nurtured through community service and school related programs.

"You're the only one who can make a difference. Whatever your dream is, go for it." Magic Johnson

Take time to sit down and plan for the future. Discuss prospective high schools, scholarship opportunities, and colleges. Always AIM HIGH and plan for multiple options!

Persevere in teaching your children that education is the key to success and being self-disciplined and taking responsibility for actions are essential to unlocking doors of opportunity. Show them through your own example that EVERYTHING counts: arriving to school on time for Morning Assembly and attending each day; completing quality homework each night; wearing school uniform; following the school rules; practicing the core values; going above and beyond what is asked; becoming actively involved in service and leadership opportunities.

Seize advantage of every opportunity that comes your way to expose your child to more education and diverse, culturally enriching experiences.

Stay actively involved in the school: join the Parent Council, attend parent-teacher conference days, and school events, and check homework daily. Keep in constant touch with your child's teachers.

And finally, *share* your own dreams with your children and help them understand how your goal setting and planning for the future have helped you to be successful.

Interim Assessments

One of our primary school wide goals for our students at Pride Academy is to maintain high standards of achievement in literacy and math. Research and experience has shown us that an effective way to ensure strong outcomes as measured by the State NJASK tests, is to use data driven instruction. This involves teachers gathering assessment scores to help them target skills and standards that need further practice and strengthening.

To this end, we will be administering school-wide grade level tests in math, literacy, and science to our students the week of **January 11-15th**. These tests will evaluate State mandated standards and skills, and they will include question formats and involve testing conditions that will help to prepare our students for the NJASK assessments that all students will take in a few months time.

You can support us in ensuring that our interim assessment days are successful by doing the following: *make sure* that your children are on time and present on all testing days; have had a good night's sleep, and eaten a nutritious breakfast on the day of the tests; and that they take the tests seriously by following all directions, respecting the testing proctors at all times and trying their best to answer all questions fully.

Determination and Pride in our work are keys to success!



Board of Trustees

Notice of Statement of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

PRIDE Academy Charter School adheres to the laws and regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8; Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; N.J.S.A. 10:5, and Equal Pay Act 1973, and is committed to ensuring equality in Educational, Employment, and Contract Practices for all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.

The following staff member has been appointed as our Affirmative Action Officer and designated to handle inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies:

Mr. Greg Silver
117 Elmwood Ave,
East Orange, NJ 07108
973-672-3200

Suggestions, comments, questions: please contact us at
Phone: (973) 672-3200
<http://www.prideacs.org>

Our Board of Trustees performs important governance and management functions for Pride Academy. Their dedicated and selfless volunteering of time, energy, and expertise allows us to provide and maintain an exceptional education for our students. Meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm and are open to the public. Our Board members include the following members:

Dr. Randall Richards, II: President of our Board of Trustees. He is retired from the position as Director of Financial Aid at Montclair State University and from the position as Director of Enrollment Services at the County College of Morris. He is a member of the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a volunteer for Clean Beaches, Ocean City NJ, and Habitat for Humanity, and an elder at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ.

Mr. Rob Mitchell, II: Vice President of our Board of Trustees. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 with a BA in African-American Studies. After college, he embarked on a mission to pursue his passion in music. For nearly 10 years Mr. Mitchell worked with major recording artists and professional music productions companies as an A&R Administrator for record labels like Island Def Jam, Mercury, Motown, Verve, and many more. He managed millions of dollars in recording costs for some of the most successful artists in the business. Mr. Mitchell was an active participant in company internship programs where he provided mentorship and guidance to young entrepreneurs and fledgling industry executives. Mr. Mitchell is currently the Assistant Director of Admission for the Morristown-Beard School.

Ms Jane Albert: voting member of our Board of Trustees. She graduated with a BA in Business Administration (Cum Laude) from Caldwell College, a MS in Business Education from Marywood College, and an MA in Religious Studies (Cum Laude) from Providence College. Her career has included 44 years in elementary and secondary education serving as Principal of Union Catholic Girls' High School (1979-1981) and St. Dominic Academy (1981-1987). As the Administrator of Finance and Development for St. Dominic Academy from 1987 until 2003, she spearheaded the capital campaign and oversaw the building of a three-story classroom addition to St. Dominic Academy (1990-1993) and created and was responsible for the Alumnae/Development Office at St. Dominic Academy until retirement. Ms Albert has served on various Middle States Evaluation teams in NY and NJ, and she has served on the Finance Committee for the Sisters of St. Dominic and Board of Trustees for St. Dominic Academy and Caldwell College.

Mr. Bryan F. Tiggs: voting member of our Board of Trustees. He is an associate at the law firm of French & Casey, LLP located in lower Manhattan, New York. Mr. Tiggs has practiced law since 2000 in both trial and appellate forums. Prior to joining the French & Casey, Mr. Tiggs gained significant experience prosecuting and defending a broad range of civil matters. He currently serves as an Alumni Mentor in the Fordham University School of Law Minority Mentorship Program. Mr. Tiggs received his J.D. from Fordham University in 2000 and a B.S. from Rutgers University in 1994. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Tiggs worked at a major national insurance company as a contract technician responsible for sales support, drafting contracts, and general compliance work. Mr. Tiggs is a member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, National Bar Association, New York County Lawyers' Association, and the New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Michael Moore, Esq: our newest voting member of our Board of Trustees, elected in December 2009. He is an Associate at Genova, Burns and Vernoia's law firm in Newark, New Jersey. He is a member of the Commercial Real Estate, Redevelopment and Environmental Law Practice Group. He received his law degree from Rutgers School of Law - Newark in 2004. Mr. Moore received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hall University in 2001. After law school he served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Michelle Hollar-Gregory, J.S.C., Superior Court of New Jersey. Mr. Moore is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Essex County Bar Association, the Jaycees of Orange and the Clergy Alliance of Newark. He is a Fellow of Leadership Newark, Class of 2011. Mr. Moore also serves as a mentor for the Thomas J. Griffin Bridges Program at Seton Hall Preparatory School.

Ms Annette Hale: non-voting member of the Board of Trustees in the position of Board Treasurer. She is currently employed as a Business Manager with Rutgers University and is a certified public accountant in New Jersey. Ms Hale brings more than ten years of experience in public accounting. Her involvement with various audits of local governments including New Jersey school districts as well as not for profit organizations has given her knowledge of their accounting, compliance and reporting requirements. She received her BS in Accounting from Seton Hall University and her MBA in Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Additional non-voting members of the Board of Trustees include administrators, *Mrs. Thomas (Principal), Ms Dumenigo (Assistant School Director), Mr. Ray (School Business Administrator and Board Secretary), Ms Brower (Dean of Students), and Ms Cenac (Dean of Academics).*