

Collaborating for Success!

September 2009

Save the Dates:

- Return the Important Packet Forms (Lunch Form; Permission Slips; etc.): **ASAP**
- Back to School Night: **Wednesday, 9/23 at 5:30pm**
Looking Ahead....
- High School Night for 8th graders: **Monday, 10/5 at 5:30 pm**

Please Don't Forget!

Every Friday we have an early dismissal at 2:45 pm. If your child waits for you for a ride home, please do not be late. There is no supervision after school and late pick up fees may be charged and/or the authorities contacted if children are repeatedly not picked up on time.

At Pride Academy we value and honor education and make the best of every opportunity to learn and teach.

We can show this each day by:

- Dressing for success!**
- Being on Time!**
- Being prepared to learn in all our classes!**
- Staying in school all day!**
- Living all our core values!**

Introducing...

Each month, we will publish an edition of this newsletter with news, suggestions, and information about upcoming events. This is one of many ways that we will use to keep the lines of communication open

No Excuses!

On Tuesday, September 8th 2009, President Obama delivered a speech addressed directly to our children. Ms Becker, our Technology Coordinator here at Pride, ensured that all of our students heard and witnessed the speech broadcasted from televisions set up in all our classrooms. Our teachers then spent time in class discussing what the President said and the important ways that it impacts the decisions we make on a daily basis when we come to school to learn and teach.

Please spend time with your child teaching and reinforcing the positive messages that the President delivered to us last week. He charged students everywhere with the job of being RESPONSIBLE for their own education, for working hard no matter what obstacles may be in their way, and for

and keep you informed about what is happening here at Pride Academy. There are so many ways that you can support and help to strengthen our community and we look forward to working with you.

“But at the end of the day, the circumstances of your life – what you look like, where you come from, how much money you have, what you’ve got going on at home – that’s no excuse for neglecting your homework or having a bad attitude. That’s no excuse for talking back to your teacher, or cutting class, or dropping out of school. That’s no excuse for not trying.” -President Obama

taking advantage of every opportunity that they have to learn and be proud of being a SCHOLAR. At our school, we believe what the President believes about your children and how each and every one of them has the potential to excel at school and be successful in life. This year, please partner with us, work with us, and support us as we commit to teaching your children and striving for excellence in academic scholarship, leadership, and service to their families, community, and country.

Arrival and Dismissal

In order to ensure a safe dismissal for our students and a smooth flow of traffic, please follow these guidelines:

- Avoid double parking as you drop off or wait to pick up your child. If you are unable to find a curb side parking spot along Elmwood Ave or the school side of Shepard Ave, please park in the lot on Madonna Place and walk up to meet your child.
- Avoid pulling up and/or stopping at the corners of Elmwood and Shepard Avenues. The intersection is very busy and it impacts the ability of our Crossing Guard to safely cross our students.
- Reinforce with your child that he/she must use the designated crosswalks to cross at Elmwood Ave, Shepard Ave, and Madonna Place. The police department has issued us with a warning that students/families who do not use the designated crosswalks will be fined.
- Between 3:30 –4:00 pm (Mon-Thurs) and 2:30-2:45 (Friday), avoid parking directly in front of the school on the school side of Elmwood Ave or towards the corner on the school side of Shepard and Elmwood. We need to reserve these spots for school busses.

Helping your children do their best:

- Reinforce and support our code of conduct and Pride Scholar expectations for success.
- Make sure that your child has a quiet, special place to do homework and has the materials he/she needs
- Ask your child to read to you or teach you something that they learned in school today
- Sign the homework assignment pad each night and check your child's Pride Points Chart.
- Be generous with your praise for a homework job well done or a conflict resolved peacefully!
- Arrange your schedule and morning routine to get your child here on time by 8:00 am each day. Let your children see that punctuality is a priority for you.



Child Find Procedures

At Pride Academy, we are committed to ensuring that all students attain academic excellence and are supported in their progress towards meeting rigorous and achievable goals and objectives.

For students who do not meet the acceptable levels of proficiency based on the NJASK tests and are identified by teachers and/or parents to be at risk based on their short term and long term academic performance, Pride Academy Charter School staff consider and utilize a range of options geared towards helping students achieve their potential. Such measures may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Recommending student attendance at summer academic enrichment programs.
- Providing targeted Title I assistance in class and/or after school for academic tutoring.
- Utilizing the school's Intervention and Referral Services program(I&RS) and procedures to help identify areas of weaknesses and possible strategies for help.
- Utilizing Child Study Team services subsequent to the I&RS intervention period or directly when warranted.
- Reviewing and restructuring teacher/class assignments to ensure the most effective placements.
- Involving parent/guardians in strategy sessions to create a viable program and plan for their child.
- Closely examining and regularly reviewing curriculum and instructional practices to maximize the school's program for student success.
- Providing professional development opportunities closely aligned with the school's curricular goals and geared towards helping all teachers teach and reinforce basic skills, reach a variety of learners, and meet individual student needs by using modifications and differentiation of instruction.

Steps for initiating I&RS interventions in the general education program include the following:

- Parent, teacher and/or school professional submits a written referral to the Social Worker or Special Education Coordinator for either a conference or I&RS Committee meeting.
- Social Worker or Special Education Coordinator will schedule a meeting and contact the parent.
- During the meeting an intervention plan will be developed and the Social Worker, Special Education Coordinator or I&RS member will be assigned to monitor the intervention plan.
- The staff member responsible for implementing the plan will keep written documentation (logs, schedules, work samples) of interventions used and their results.
- After the intervention period, the Social Worker, Special Education Coordinator or I&RS member will schedule a meeting with the teachers/staff members to review the interventions.
- Parent, teacher, and/or school professional may directly contact a member of the Child Study Team for an intervention plan.

Steps for a parent initiating a Child Study Team Referral subsequent to the intervention period or directly when warranted:

- Parent writes a letter requesting Child Study Team services.
- Any teacher/staff member who receives a written request for a CST evaluation from a parent will immediately forward the request to the Social Worker or Special Education Coordinator who will process the request by date stamping the letter, which will initiate the 20-day time line for conducting the Testing Determination Meeting.
- The Social Worker or Special Education Coordinator will schedule the Testing Determination Meeting and conduct the meeting according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14

Especially for our 8th Grade Leaders!

High School Night - On **Monday October 5th from 5:30pm – 8:00pm**, Pride Academy will be hosting our second annual High School Night! High School Night is an excellent opportunity for 8th graders to meet representatives from many exemplary high schools, some from around our neighborhoods, and some from outside our area. The 8th grade Pride students will have time to learn about various high school programs, ask questions about admissions processes, and most importantly, display their own attributes that make each of our students valuable prospective high school scholars. All 8th graders and their parents/guardians are required to attend.

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