



Save the Dates!

- **Respect Month:** Oct 1st-31st
- **High School Night:** Tues. 10/2 at 5:30PM
- **Healthy Kids Walk:** Fri. 10/5 10:30-12:30am. (Parents are welcome to attend).
- **Half Day 12:30 Dismissal:** Fri. 10/5
- **School Closed for Columbus Day:** Mon. 10/8
- **Progress Report Conferences:** Thurs, 10/11 4:15-6:15 pm
- **Board Meeting:** Wed. 10/17 at 6pm
- **Half Day 12:30 Dismissal for Students:** Fri. 10/19 for Professional Development
- **Latin Dance Party:** Thurs. 10/18 at 5:30PM



6th Grader, Morgan, is our first NY Jets Upstander of the week!

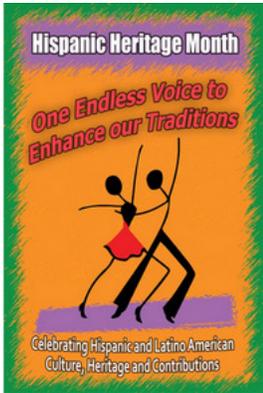
Pride Academy & The N.Y. Jets Tackle Bullying!

During the month of October, the State of New Jersey asks schools to take time during the first week of October to address the issue of bullying and also address issues related to violence and vandalism during the third week of October. Because "respect" is a core value and an integral part of our school community, Pride Academy typically spends the entire month focusing on issues connected to respect. This year, we are partnering with the New York Jets and honoring Respect Month through a football theme. The New York Jets have invited Pride Academy to participate in their "Jets Upstander of the Week Award" program, which invites schools to nominate students who demonstrate positive upstander behaviors that combat bullying. Nominees get a T-shirt and bumper sticker. Winners that are selected by the NY Jets can win tickets and parking passes to an upcoming game at MetLife Stadium. The New York Jets have also provided our school and teachers with their *Character Playbook* online program, which teaches scholars about making good character choices. Teachers will be able to use short twenty-minute online lessons to discuss various topics like managing emotions, communicating effectively, resolving conflicts, and more. Other events this month will also include the following:

- Mr. Altamirano, Ms. Walker and Mrs Mack will incorporate lessons during PE/Health classes on a variety of age-appropriate topics. 5th Grade will discuss "Respecting Self" through Suicide Prevention. 6th grade will focus on "Respecting Others" through Bullying Prevention. 7th Grade will learn about Healthy Relationships, and 8th Grade will discuss Healthy Relationships and Dating Violence.
- Scholars may chose to participate in our "Tackle Bullying" Dress Down Day. During this day, we will bring awareness to bullying by dressing down in football t-shirts or jerseys that represent our favorite college or NFL football team.
- Ms. Brower will also be addressing 5th graders to discuss "What is Violence?"

We appreciate and need your support of our Code of Conduct and discipline policies so that we can maintain a safe, peaceful, and civil learning environment. If you have not already received your 2018-2019 Code of Conduct, please ask for your copy at the Main Office. Please reach out to Ms Brower or Mrs. Thomas if you have questions or concerns about any incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Other useful NJDOE web resources for parents addressing a range of related topics include the following: *The Keeping Our Kids Safe, Healthy, and in School* website <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/sandp/> and *The Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) web page* (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib>).

BRING BACK PLAY! The Pride Academy Parent Council has set a big goal for our community. This year, they will be working hard to raise \$20,000 to "Bring Back Play" to our Pride Scholars. In 2012, the Parent Council earned a grant to bring a playground to Pride Academy Charter School. This goal was achieved through a partnership with Amneal Pharmaceutical, and Kaboom!, a national non-profit organization dedicated to building playgrounds for schools and communities. One of the most difficult sacrifices that Pride Academy has had to make was to take down our playground in order to expand our building and provide a safe and more effective learning environment for our scholars. Now that our new wing is complete, our Parent Council would like to once again raise funds and rebuild our playground. One of the first fundraisers that they will hold is also a partnership with the New York Jets, where parents, families, and friends will be able to purchase tickets to a Jets game at discounted rates with a portion of the ticket sales going to the Pride Playground Fund.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month!

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th to October 15th. Pride Academy Charter School is finding a variety of ways to celebrate the Hispanic culture in our school community.

* Our Dance Teacher, Ms. Gendreau, is currently teaching our 8th graders about the history of Latin music and dance. Our scholars are truly enjoying learning to dance salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

* Our Spanish Teacher, Ms. Charussilapa, continues to infuse Latin American history and culture in her Spanish classes.

* On Thursday, October 18th we invite ALL of our parents to join us in a Latin Dance Party, where Ms. Gendreau, with the assistance of some students and parents, will teach us some Latin Dances. On the menu, will be some delicious Spanish food from Dominy Restaurant, a local Dominican restaurant located on Central Avenue in East Orange. We hope that you will join us for this special celebration.

Healthy Kids Walk! by Ms Dumenigo

Our Fourth Annual Healthy Kids Walk is well under way. Our scholars are working hard to raise as much money as possible in order to support our athletics, mentoring, clubs and after school activities. Each team is working towards individual goals, but collectively, we are working to raise at least \$15,000 in order to provide all the programs that enrich our scholars learning and growing at Pride Academy. Scholars who reach their \$40 goal will be able to get face painting and henna, as well as participate in our first ever Pride's Best Baller Basketball Tournament. The scholar who raises the most money will win 4 tickets to a Red Bulls game in Red Bulls stadium on October 21st. The team that raises the most money will earn a WEEK OF FREE DRESS DOWNS!

This year's Healthy Kids Walk will be a fun and healthy event for the whole family. We invite all our Pride families to attend on Friday, October 5th in Elmwood Park from 11am to 12:30pm. Parents will be able to participate in a Boot Camp exercise class, as well as enter raffles for prizes from our sponsors. Our sponsor, *Blink Fitness*, will be raffling off a free year gym membership. *Urban Cyclery*, which is a new bike shop on Central Avenue in East Orange, will be raffling off a \$50 gift certificate. There will also be some vendor tables giving away information, items, and selling some of their wares. If there are any Pride family members who would like to have a vendor table or who would like to volunteer to help out with the activities, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at 973-672-3200 ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org

As always, we thank all of our families for supporting our Healthy Kids Walk as we work to provide great activities and opportunities for our Pride Scholars.

Preparing for Progress Report Night!

Please attend Progress Report Conference afternoon on **Thursday, October 11th** between **4:15 pm and 6:15 pm** to pick up your child's progress report and meet with teachers. If you are unable to make it, please call your child's teacher to make an alternative day and time. To prepare for your conference, please consider these tips:

- Prepare your questions in advance
- Ask to look at your child's work.
- Share your expertise about your child that may be impacting your child's academic performance or conduct; help the teacher understand how best to work with your child.
- 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 and behavior 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 progress report. Celebrate the strengths and address the concerns by coming up with a plan to make improvements.