



Save the Dates!

- **SEPAG Zoom Meeting:** Tues 12/8 at 6pm
- **Report Cards Distributed:** Thurs 12/10 by Advisors during Office Hours
- **Report Card Conferences:** Mon 12/14-Thurs 12/17. Advisors will set up conference times with parents
- **Kwanzaa Zoom Celebration:** Tues 12/22 6:00pm
- **Philanthropy Day:** Wed 12/23
- **School Closed for Winter Break:** Thurs. Dec 24th
- **School Closed for Winter Break:** Mon. 12/23-Wed. 12/1
- **School Reopens:** Mon. 1/4

**We wish you peace,
JOY, and gratitude
this holiday season!**



KWANZAA by Mrs. Wilson

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African cultural holiday, which celebrates family, community and culture. It is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st and its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Kwanzaa was first created to reaffirm and restore our rootedness in African culture. It is, therefore, an expression of recovery and reconstruction of African culture. Secondly, Kwanzaa was created to serve as a regular communal celebration to reaffirm and reinforce the bonds between us as a people.

It was designed to be an ingathering to strengthen community and reaffirm common identity, purpose and direction as a people and a world community.

Thirdly, Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce the *Nguzo Saba* (the Seven Principles.) These seven communitarian African values are: *Umoja* (Unity), *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination), *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility), *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics), *Nia* (Purpose), *Kuumba*, (Creativity), and *Imani* (Faith).

On **Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:00pm**, Pride Academy will host our annual Kwanzaa Celebration online through a Zoom meeting! The theme for Kwanzaa this year will be centered on the *Nguzo Saba* (Seven Principles) and celebrate family, community and culture.

We look forward to sharing the spirit of peace, unity and community as we celebrate each other and appreciate our gifts and talents.

Report Card Conferences

Report Cards will be distributed via email/text by Homeroom advisors during Office Hours period on **Thursday Dec. 10th**. During the week of **Monday December 14th to Thursday December 17th**, Homeroom advisors will reach out to parents with meeting times and facilitate setting up parent-teacher conferences. Some tips to help prepare for Report Card Parent Conferences:

1. **Finding time to meet may be more difficult than usual.** You may have more to juggle these days, between your job, your child's learning, and other family demands. Your child's teacher is probably juggling many of the same things. If none of the proposed conference times work for you, let the teacher know so that you can come up with a mutually convenient time.
2. **You have essential information to share with your child's teacher.** You may be seeing strengths and struggles the teacher doesn't see. The more you share with your child's teacher, the more you can work together to help your child thrive. Your child's teacher may also ask you for specific feedback on their remote learning instruction. Please share what's working and what isn't.
3. **All questions are good questions.** You may have questions about your child's academic skills and progress and about the new ways of learning this year — from technology to schedules. You might want the teacher to show you how to get into Google Classroom or another tool. It's OK to ask about those things, too.
4. **Building a relationship with your child's teacher.** Social distancing can make it feel harder to connect with your child's teacher. Use this meeting as a time to share your needs and also any positives. Teachers will appreciate you acknowledging their hard work and dedication during these extraordinary times.

LOL: Bringing Fun to our Virtual Community!

Pride Academy's League of Leaders, better known as "LOL!" has met only twice so far, yet they have already planned a wide variety of events that will bring fun to our scholars and school community. Their first event was a huge success with over 40 students signing up to attend a virtual "Friendsgiving Party" that included students playing a Thanksgiving Trivia Kahoot game, Thanksgiving themed Scattergories, and a gratitude Jamboard.

The LOL leaders are being led by Ms. Dumenigo who shared, "I'm so excited to be working with these scholars. After many years of working with student leaders in a wide variety of clubs and activities, I find that they always come up with far more creative ideas than I ever could."

The work of creating fun, community-building events is more important now than ever before as our scholars are managing the challenges of remote learning while being home feeling isolated and missing spending time with their friends. LOL is committed to developing fun activities that will provide our scholars with opportunities to socialize, build friendships, and experience joy.

After the great success of their Thanksgiving Food Drive and "Friendsgiving Party", LOL is hard at work planning the next round of activities including our Virtual Philanthropy Day, Best Mask Competition, and more.

LOL, along with African Dance, Dreamality Choir and the other clubs still on the way, will surely be doing a great job of providing our scholars with great opportunities for Pride family fun!

Online Safety Advice from Ms Brower



Many of our scholars are devotees of Anime, which are Japanese cartoons or animations that they view online. As with American cartoons, while most animated features are geared toward younger audiences, there are some that include mature or explicit material. These, when shown on television, are typically scheduled later in the evening and are intended for adult viewing. "Hentai" is a subgenre of Japanese anime that features explicit, pornographic and sometimes violent themes, with highly sexualized imagery and plots.

Some Hentai content may violate federal obscenity laws by featuring images of minor children engaged in behaviors that would violate existing federal and state child pornography laws, if the actions depicted involved real children. Students who view Hentai are at risk of coming into contact with dangerous adults that also view this material. Hentai is not safe or appropriate for children and should never be viewed on school computers or otherwise.

Parents, please be alert to any online concerns that may arise with regard to your children's online activity. If you see them viewing material or searching inappropriate or sexual terms during our Remote learning time, please notify Ms. Brower and Mrs Thomas immediately. Encourage your children to show the core value of integrity online by doing the right thing, even if they think no one is watching.

Be certain to report anything inappropriate with regards to your children's online activity during remote learning immediately. Please inform Robin S. Brower, Dean of Students at 862.400.7336 or Fiona Thomas, Principal at fthomas@prideacs.org.

Thank you for your support as we continue to ensure that all our students are safe and making the best choices with their time during their remote learning classes and beyond.

