

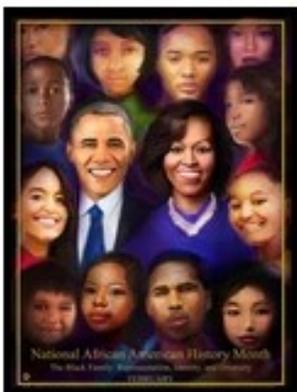


Save the Dates

- Pride Asynchronous Day and Other Strategies for Success:** Tues 2/2 at 6:00PM.
Zoom Link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89505097262?pwd=cGpDZ0g0WVVFaNmZFalhvUTRSUmhOUT09>
- Football with the Fellas:**
Thurs. 2/4 at 6:00PM. Zoom link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86273825531?pwd=M2N1c0hNZnVKeS9XTytsdXYrcnY4UT09>
- Parent Zoom Lounge:** Wed. 2/10 at 5:30PM. Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85225484023?pwd=Ml9kL0FXaGlJcGFVcGdCQVN1ZzVVQT09>
- School Closed:** Mon. 2/15 for President's Day
- Black History Month Musical Celebration:** Thurs. 2/25 at 6:00PM

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- LOL! Poetry/Art Contest on Friendship:** Feb 1-12
- LOL! Friendship Party:** Fri. 2/12 at 1:00PM
- LOL! Poetry/Art Contest on Black Excellence:** 2/16-2/25



Black History Month! by Mrs. Wilson



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, it grew from the roots of "Negro History Week," founded by noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Black History Month has been honored since 1976, and almost every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history. This year, the Black History Month 2021 theme, "**Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity**" explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.

Although we celebrate and honor Black History, 365/24/7, as educators this is an ideal time to focus our efforts on expanding the definition of Black excellence- what does it really look like to contribute to make a contribution to Black joy, health, wealth, and social and racial equity and justice for all? We need to ensure that we are not focusing on the same notable figures: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, etc. While these figures were phenomenal and significant to the movement and advancements of Black people, we want to be clear about the message of worth we are sending to students. We want to avoid our scholars embracing the notion that in order to be valued and deemed worthy of being honored, they have to become President/Vice President of the United States, be an extraordinary athlete, lead a powerful movement, etc. If we continue to emphasize familiar notable figures, we limit the vision of Black excellence, where it becomes confined to a particular box and people come to develop a certain expectation of what it looks like and who reflects it in their words and actions. It is important that our scholars recognize and acknowledge their own contributions, and the people in their community, and in their homes, who are doing the work; for instance, focusing on Black business owners in the community, leaders of programs and services, philanthropists, etc. Their contributions matter too and need to be celebrated. By being more intentional about expanding who and what we teach scholars during Black History Month, we will foster diversity and inclusivity which will allow Black and non-Black people to see more representation of Black excellence. Ultimately, this will drive our efforts to seamlessly extend Black History studies and knowledge far beyond the month of February.

Pride Celebrates Black History Month by Ms Dumengio

Pride Academy is always looking for ways to infuse our community with culturally responsive lessons, activities and events that celebrate Black and Brown people and their legacies. Black History Month provides us with yet another opportunity to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. In addition to the many classroom lessons, projects, and activities that our Pride teachers will be incorporating into their curriculums, Pride has a wide variety of special events and activities to celebrate Black History Month.

School-Wide Black History Trivia Kahoot Contest - We will be hosting a Kahoot game competition to kick off Black History Month on February 1. All 12 teams will compete on answering Black History trivia questions centered on New Jersey. Winners from each grade will win a book of their choice by a Black author.

LOL! Art / Poetry Contest on Black Excellence - Pride Academy's League of Leaders, also known as LOL! is sponsoring bi-weekly art and poetry competitions. In honor of Black History Month, they will have "Black Excellence" as their topic. The deadline for all entries is February 25th. Winners will win a Dunkin Donuts \$10 gift card.

Second Annual Black History Musical Celebration - We will be showcasing our own examples of Black excellence by highlighting the talents of our scholars through their art, poetry, and musical performances from our Pride scholars, Dreamality Choir, and African Dance Ensemble. This event will take place on Thursday, February 25th at 6 pm. A recording of these performances will also be shared with our Pride scholars.

Pride Scholar Showcase: Looking to showcase a student who has excelled during this challenging time? We'll be showcasing students who have embraced this extraordinary pandemic time to grow with personal hobbies and skills. Bakers, artists, game players, dancers, singers, spoken word, and all athletes...we want to highlight how you've used this time to further your interests and talents! (send email ideas and student nominees to aquinn@prideacs.org)

Spotlight on Safety from the Desk of Ms Brower....



#3 Spotlight on Safety: Distinguishing Between Conflict and Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

The greatest distinction between conflict and bullying lies in the balance of power involved. Conflict is a mutually competitive or opposing action or engagement, including a disagreement, an argument or a fight. There is no significant imbalance of power, merely two or more individuals who are not getting along and who may, unfortunately, allow that disagreement to escalate to a physical level. Conflict is a normal part of human development. Our role is to help students manage conflict in a manner that is peaceful, safe and respectful to all involved. Fighting is never permitted.

Bullying is one-sided, where one or more students are victims of one or more person's aggression, which is intended to physically or emotionally hurt the victim(s). Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people. Bullying behaviors may fall into one or more of the following categories:

1. Verbal – Includes taunting, name calling, inappropriate sexual behavior or comments, embarrassing someone in public, malicious teasing or making threats;
2. Psychological – Includes spreading rumors, purposefully excluding people from activities, breaking up friendships.
3. Physical – Includes hitting, punching, shoving, spitting, tripping, making rude or threatening gestures or taking personal belongings
4. Cyberbullying – Includes using the Internet, mobile phone or other digital technologies to harm others.

If students have a physical conflict and one student has a significant physical advantage over the other is that automatically considered an incident of bullying? No. It could be, but whether an incident is considered HIB or non-HIB bullying, or merely a conflict depends on the circumstances uncovered during the investigation. Please refer any student who may be injured in a physical conflict to the nurse immediately, forward witness statement and a completed referral form to Ms. Brower, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Lowry or another administrator.

What if the victim starts the conflict? This sometimes occurs. All students involved in physical conflicts or incidents of bullying, both HIB and non-HIB should be referred to Ms. Brower, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator. In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABBR) the students are offered counseling through the school Social Workers. Students also receive anti-bullying education, social skills and conflict management strategies and support.

Clarify and strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating and responding to incidents of HIB of students that occur on school grounds and off school grounds under specified circumstances;

- Respond to research on the incidence, prevalence and effects of HIB that has emerged since the adoption of the original HIB laws adopted in 2002 and amended in 2007 and 2008;
- Establish clearer standards for the definition of HIB;
- Use and better manage existing resources to increase school safety;
- Reduce the risk of suicide due to HIB.

Every member of the school community plays a role in making sure our children have a safe environment in which to learn. The ABBR spells out the specific roles and responsibilities of the school staff, administrators, volunteers and contracted service providers in addressing HIB.

It is vital that you are clear about how you should respond. It is the law.

