



Save the Dates

- **Parent-Teacher Report Card Conferences:** Thurs. 3/2
4:15-6:00PM
- **Parent Council Meeting:**
Wed. 3/8 5:30PM
- **Applebee's Breakfast:** Sat.
3/11 8-10AM
- **Graduation Pictures for 8th Grade:** Thurs. 3/16
- **ELA & Math Interim Assessments:** for all grades
3/27-3/30
- **PARCC Parent Letter Deadline:** Mon. 3/27. Please submit parent letters to the Main Office
- **Half Day Dismissal for Students:** at 12:30 Fri. 3/31
- **Spring Break:** Fri. 4/7-4/14



PARENT SURVEY

Please take the opportunity to complete the survey distributed last week and return it to the Main Office by **Monday, 3/13**. Your candid and constructive feedback will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with our administration and faculty as we reflect on our success and set goals for continued improvement and growth as a school community.

Reflective Practice!

Self-evaluation and reflection are essential components in the process of learning and development. As a school, we are committed to practice these habits and create ways to seek and receive constructive feedback to support our continued growth. This month, we have provided you with a formal way to evaluate our program here at Pride Academy and your experience so far this year. Please take the opportunity to complete the survey attached to this newsletter and return it to the Main Office by next **Monday, 3/13**. Your candid and constructive feedback will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with our administration and faculty as we reflect on our success and set goals for continued improvement and growth as a school community.

Our teachers and staff members are leaders work hard to provide opportunities for your children to be successful and we need the help and support of our parents and family members to make the results even stronger and afford maximum benefit for your children. We encourage your presence at Parent Council meetings, parent-teacher meetings, workshops, and school events. We are eager to hear your suggestions and ways to work together to address concerns and make improvements.

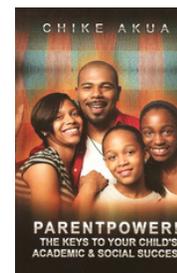
Some ways that you can do this during the month of March include the following:

- Attend the Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser on March 11th
- Complete the Parent Survey and use it as an opportunity to suggest positive school-wide improvements
- Arrange to attend the 2nd Trimester Report Card Conference evening this Thursday 3/2
- Write your PARCC Parent Letter and submit it to the Main Office

Your time and sharing are investments in your children's education and in supporting the growth of our teacher-leaders and strengthening positive and beneficial home-school connections!

Spotlight on Parenting!

Mr. Chike Akua is a leading authority on increasing the achievement of today's students and as a recognized master teacher, he has been an invited keynote presenter at regional and national conferences, school systems, colleges and universities. With a culturally relevant approach toward closing the achievement gap, he is known for his motivational presentations and compelling messages to our youth. Mr. Akua is also the author of a book called Parent Power! : The Keys To Your Child's Academic & Social Success. The book is designed to assist parents in ensuring that their children develop a positive, empowering and authentic identity rooted in the values of honesty, respect and responsibility, and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and mindsets to navigate peer relationships, the influences of media, and relationships with their elders.



The following are ParentPower activities that Mr. Akua suggests at the end of the Chapter 6 on Essential Habits for Highly Effective Families:

1. "Make a family dinner a priority. Use it as an opportunity for discussion and debriefing so that you can keep up with what's going on in your child's life.
2. Have your child summarize what they are learning about in each subject at school each day. Do not accept the universal answer most children give when asked this question, which is, "Nothing."
3. Get to know your child's teachers. Due to your work schedule and the nature of schooling, they may spend more time with your child than you do. So you should know them, what they are teaching and how they engage your child.
4. Develop weekly and bi-weekly activities like:
 - Family Fun Time
 - Family Game Night
 - Family Movie Night
 - Visits with Elders
 - Worship at church, mosque, or temple" (ParentPower 2012, p. 73)

Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser

The Parent Council is continuing a great tradition on Saturday, March 11th between 8:00AM-10:00AM by hosting another Applebee's Breakfast to raise money for the Parent Council Scholarship. For the past few years, the Parent Council has sponsored this event in order to raise scholarship funds for Pride Academy graduates. They sell \$10 tickets for a delicious breakfast at the Applebee's located on Springfield Avenue in Newark. The breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, turkey sausage, coffee and juice.

"This event is a lot fun, because Pride takes over Applebee's", said Ms. Dumenigo. *"It's only Pride Academy family and friends in the restaurant and everyone is having a great breakfast and a great time."* From 8 to 10am, the Applebee's is filled with Pride families, as well as their aunts, cousins, grandparents, co-workers, and friends. *"Not only are you having a delicious breakfast, but you can also feel the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping Pride scholars earn scholarships for high school."*

The goal for the Parent Council is to sell as many tickets as possible. More tickets sold, means more scholarships for more Pride scholars. Please help our Parent Council reach their goal of selling 200 tickets. You can also support this important fundraiser by being a server for the event. If you would like to be a server, purchase or sell tickets, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at 973-672-3200 ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org.



Ms Fontanez and her son, Samson, attending Applebee's Breakfast event last year!

SAT APP BEGINS! MARCH MADNESS LEADS TO PARCC MADNESS! by Ms Dumenigo

On March 4th, Pride Academy will begin another year of our Saturday Advanced Proficient Program – SAT APP! This program invites a select group of scholars to participate in a Saturday academic enrichment program for seven Saturday mornings leading up to the PARCC assessment. During this program, students receive extra instruction and preparation in language arts and math. The APP program is designed to help scholars improve their reading and math skills, as well as prepare for high school, college, and beyond.

This year, there is a new addition to SAT APP. There is a special Promotion Program to help and support students who may be in danger of retention. This program will provide students with time to complete homework, introduce study skills, and provide mentorship for struggling students.

The theme of this year's SAT APP program is: MARCH MADNESS! This annual college tournament will provide us the opportunity to use topics related to basketball and college to inspire our scholars. Each team will be named after a Big East college team: Syracuse, Seton Hall, Notre Dame, Princeton, and the University of North Carolina. It will also be a theme that introduces Pride Academy's PARCC countdown theme, which will be PARCC MADNESS! During the two weeks leading up to the PARCC Assessments, Pride will be holding special activities and events leading up to the assessment days. The countdown is intended to inspire and motivate students in preparation for the PARCC test and will culminate with our big PARCC PEP RALLY on Friday, April 28th.



#14 Spotlight on Safety: Types of Cyber Bullying

Advances in technology and social media have changed the face of interpersonal relationships. Individuals from anywhere in the world can meet online to play games, chat, and share the lives of others by viewing profiles, photographs and videos. These advances have also changed the face of interpersonal conflict, making it possible for individuals to harass, embarrass, threaten and disrespect others from any mobile device or from home, and to do so with a huge audience of onlookers. Tension arising from online conflict can negatively affect school climate, teaching and learning when it finds its way into our school. Please review the various forms of cyber bullying listed below.

Threats – Stating or implying that you or someone else will harm someone, or that something hurtful will happen to someone.

Offensive or insulting messages – This includes harassing, racist, or homophobic messages, personal insults, and offensive status postings and comments, whether they overtly or covertly refer to the target. These may be sent anonymously, or they may be posted very briefly, just long enough to get views, likes or comments.

Rumors/Denigration – Using social media, text, instant messaging, or other means to put down or spread hurtful rumors about others.

Impersonation – Pretending to be someone else online while sending hurtful messages to others. This may occur when passwords are shared, students are posting with friends present and the friend takes the liberty to post under an account that is not his or her own, a screen name is imitated, or a false account is created using someone else's identity. It may involve posting embarrassing information or photos of the alleged account owner, or sending their personal information to hate groups or sites and venues likely to contain predators. Students should be reminded that they are responsible for anything posted online using their password and must keep passwords secure. No one should ever post comments under someone else's user name.

Photos and video – Taking embarrassing photos or video, uploading photos or video that is embarrassing to the subject or without the subject's consent, taking screenshots or downloading photos to forward to unintended recipients, altering photos to cause embarrassment, or creating videos to make fun of others.

Sexting – Typically does not begin as bullying, but becomes so when explicit images are forwarded to unintended recipients. Students should be reminded that once posted online or sent via cell phone, they no longer have control over where an image is posted or to whom it is sent in the future.

Betrayal of Confidential Information – Betrayal may be careless, deliberate, or unintentional. A former friend may no longer feel obligated to maintain a confidence or a friendship may be faked for the purpose of gathering and ultimately disseminating confidential information. It is important that students respect and protect their confidential information and that of their friends and peers.

Griefing – Harassing another player within an interactive game, possibly using avatars. If the game involves headphones or microphones, the harassment may also be verbal. Parents should monitor the tone and language used toward others during online and video game play.

Warning/Warning Wars – Falsely reporting others for misbehavior. This may occur on social media or online gaming sites, causing the host to suspend the user account of the individual reported.

Please make opportunities to find out what activities your children engage in online. Frequently check activity and to friend and follow their children online. Who are our children's friends or followers? Whom do they follow or play games with online? Why do they choose to friend and follow certain individuals? What makes someone a friend? The arena of online and electronic communication provides endless opportunities for caring adults to create and take advantage of "teachable moments."

Parents are advised to look at the profiles of their children's friends and followers, as well. Are all interactions positive and safe? Looking at the friend or followers photos and comments, determine if this individual is appropriate, age and otherwise, as a friend to your child. Notify school administration of any conflict that could spill over into the school so we can proactively work with students to resolve issues.

Please refer student concerns regarding bullying to Robin S. Brower, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, at extension 203, Fiona Thomas, Principal at extension 201, or Rosemary Lowry, Vice Principal, at extension 210 immediately.



For the past five years, we have worked hard to encourage and motivate our students during their State assessments. One of the things we did was to present each child with a letter of encouragement every day. These letters came from their teachers and staff, but the most important letter was the one they received from their parents and family members. Our students were truly inspired by these letters and they helped them to stay determined and work hard. We are asking that you take a moment to write a letter or card right now, which we will present to your child during their PARCC testing week coming up in late April and early May.

Some ideas about what you can write:

- ♥ Tell them how proud you are of them!
- ♥ Tell them you believe in them and know that they can achieve anything!
- ♥ Encourage them to focus and do their best on the PARCC test!
- ♥ Remind them and show examples of how they have grown academically or in maturity over the years!
- ♥ Push them not to give up, even if the questions are challenging!
- ♥ Tell them that you love them!

Here is a sample letter that one of our Dad's wrote to his daughter:

I am writing this important letter to you to express my unflinching support to you especially during this testing in your school.

I am very confident that as a good daughter, you are always very serious in your endeavors, you exude brilliance, excellence, as prepared as ever, never leaving a stone unturned, go for the test and come out in flying colours.

I am very proud of your achievements, your dexterity and kindness to your peers. I want you to know that with much favour, I will be behind you and in front to direct your steps to greatness.

There is so much to write but time will not permit. "Sharp spear, they say, needs no polish."

Go and excel girl!

Please reach out to Ms Dumenigo or Mr. Ofstad if you have any questions or if we can provide you with stationary or any other kind of support.