



PARCC CELEBRATION OF LEARNING IS HERE!



Save the Dates!

- **Wed, May 3:** Get Fit and Have Fun Parent Party 5:30PM
- **Thurs, May 4:** Parent Council Meeting 5:30PM
- **Fri, May 5:** Half Day 12:30 Dismissal
- **Mon May 8-Fri May 12:** Staff Appreciation Week
- **Wed, May 10:** Board Meeting 6:00PM
- **Thurs, May 11:** Remembrance Celebration for Ms. May 3:00PM
- **Fri, May 12:** Half Day 12:30 Dismissal & Parent Council Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- **Wed, May 17th:** New Parent Orientation 5:30PM
- **Sat. May 20th:** Generations Dance 5:30 to 8:30PM
- **Wed. May 24th:** Ubuntu Family Meeting 5:30PM
- **Mon, May 29th:** School Closed for Memorial Day
- **Wed, May 31st:** 8th Grade NJASK Science Test
- **Sat. June 3rd:** Alumni Reunion Luncheon for graduates of Pride 11:30am to 2pm.

During the 10 Day PARCC MADNESS Countdown, our scholars have had the opportunity to be engaged in Morning Assembly Math and ELA Academic Challenges, an Academic Tournament, our PARCC MADNESS Basketball Shoot Out, and our culminating PARCC PEP RALLY! Our scholars are ready and motivated to successfully *dominate* their tests over the course of the next two weeks! Our testing schedule is as follows:

Monday 5-1 ELA: 5 th & 8 th	Tuesday 5-2 ELA: 5 th & 8 th	Wednesday 5-3 ELA: 5 th & 8 th	Thursday 5-4 Math: 5 th & 8 th	Friday 5-5 Math: 5 th & 8 th
Monday 5-8 ELA: 6 th & 7 th	Tuesday 5-9 ELA: 6 th & 7 th	Wednesday 5-10 ELA: 6 th & 7 th	Thursday 5-11 Math: 6 th & 8 th	Friday 5-12 Math: 7 th & 8 th

Please also note that Friday 5-5 and Friday 5-12 are Half-Day 12:30 Dismissals. All students must attend for their assessment in the mornings.

Ways that you can support your children over the course of the next two weeks include the following:

- ✓ **Ensuring** that your child arrives to school on time by 8:00 am and attends all day!
- ✓ **Ensuring** that your child eats a healthy, nourishing breakfast each morning of testing!
- ✓ **Ensuring** that your child goes to bed early each testing night, separates from their devices, and is well rested for work the next day!
- ✓ **Supporting** the school in reinforcing that your child follows all the school and State Mandated Testing guidelines regarding cell phone use, maintaining strict silence during testing, maintaining their stamina, and putting their best effort into working hard and answering all test questions!
- ✓ **Affirming** your belief in your child that he/she will work hard and achieve success on the PARCC Tests!

Please reach out to Mr. Ofstad or Mrs. Wilson if you have any questions about our academic program or our upcoming PARCC assessment schedule. We look forward to continuing to partner with you and learn from you!



Netflix 13 Reasons Why! Need-to-Know Advice!

We would like to take this opportunity to build awareness and share valuable information and resources with regard to a Netflix series that is currently trending and that your child may be viewing, hearing about, or discussing with peers at school. The series is called *13 Reasons Why* and it is based on a novel of the same name. The following information is excerpted from information shared by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP):

The series revolves around 17-year-old Hannah Baker, who takes her own life and leaves behind audio recordings for 13 people who she says in some way were part of why she killed herself. Each tape recounts painful events in which one or more of the 13 individuals played a role. The series graphically depicts a suicide death and addresses in wrenching detail a number of difficult topics, such as bullying, rape, drunk driving, and slut shaming. The series also highlights the consequences of teenagers witnessing assaults and bullying (i.e., bystanders) and not taking action to address the situation (e.g., not speaking out against the incident, not telling an adult about the incident). <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

We agree with and support the cautions and recommendations outlined by the NASP and mental health experts that encourage parents and educators to be attentive and aware of the challenges that may arise from our children viewing this series and other media that focus on similar topics. While many of our students may be able to distinguish between real life and movies, having conversations about these sensitive topics with trusted and responsible adults is vital to help them process and understand the situations and decisions that the characters in the series make. Most importantly, we must reinforce the message that **“suicide is not a solution to problems and that help is available.”**

If your child is already watching or hearing about this series, we strongly encourage that you follow these NASP guidelines to support you in having important conversations with your children as they process and develop their ideas about the themes.

1. *“Ask your child if they have heard or seen the series 13 Reasons Why. While we don’t recommend that they be encouraged to view the series, do tell them you want to watch it, with them or to catch up, and discuss their thoughts.*
2. *If they exhibit any of the [warning signs](#), don’t be afraid to ask if they have thought about suicide or if someone is hurting them. Raising the issue of suicide does not increase the risk or plant the idea. On the contrary, it creates the opportunity to offer help.*
3. *Ask your child if they think any of their friends or classmates exhibit warning signs. Talk with them about how to seek help for their friend or classmate. Guide them on how to respond when they see or hear any of the warning signs.*
4. *Listen to your children’s comments without judgment. Doing so requires that you fully concentrate, understand, respond, and then remember what is being said. Put your own agenda aside.*
5. *Get help from a school-employed or community-based mental health professional if you are concerned for your child’s safety or the safety of one of their peers.”* <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

For additional resources, please review the attached *13 Reasons Why Talking Points* sheet and for information about Warning Signs, please go to <https://www.save.org/about-suicide/warning-signs-risk-factors-protective-factors/>

If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to Mrs. Mack at ext. 224 (Grade 5-6 Social Worker), Ms McClean at ext. 209 (Grade 7-8 Social Worker), Ms Brower at ext. 203 (Dean of Students) or Mrs. Thomas at ext. 201.

Generations Dance!



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 20th 5:30-8:30PM

The excitement about this year's Generations Dance is continuing to build! We believe that this year's Generations Dance, with its Caribbean flair and taste, will be the best one yet! Our dance event is a big family celebration and we welcome all members of the family to have fun together. We will have a DJ playing great music, serve delicious Caribbean food, and create wonderful decorations to set the scene for a whole lot of fun.

The highlight of the evening is always the crowning of the "Most Stylish Pair." In addition to being celebrated and wearing their King & Queen Crowns, they will also win a Pass to Great Adventure. This year, we will be hosting the dance in a new venue, our new addition Common Room, which will provide us with more space to dance, as well as air conditioning. We hope to see you all there!



#7 Spotlight on Safety: The Language of Respect

What do you do when your child makes a statement that is biased or hateful, or whose language or behavior is otherwise offensive?

There are many factors to consider in this type of situation. Does your child fully comprehend the impact and meaning of his or her words and actions? Is the remark or action directed at an adult or peer? Is it done innocently or purposefully? Is it intended to garner a laugh or power? No matter what the response to the above questions may ultimately be, your response is critical in establishing and reinforcing practice of Pride Academy's core values and expectations for school and classroom climate. Use the following guidelines, adapted from a GLSEN Quick Reference guide on addressing bias and disrespect:

Interrupt: Speak up against biased language and disrespectful behavior *in the moment, every single time you witness it.*

Try saying, "That phrase /behavior is hurtful and offensive to me and others. Could you find another way to say/do that?" This establishes with witnesses who may have overheard the remark or witnessed the behavior and been offended that it is not repeated.

Question: Ask simple questions to find out why the comment or behavior happened and how you can best address the situation.

Try asking, "What made you say/do that? What do you mean by it? Can you please tell me more?"

Educate: Explain why a term, phrase, or behavior, such as mimicking a speech impediment or making fun of a peer is offensive. Sometimes statements are made out of ignorance or lack of exposure to diverse personalities or perspectives.

Try asking, "Do you know the history of that word or why your actions could be offensive to someone?"

Echo: If someone else speaks up against bias remarks, thank him or her and reiterate the anti-bias, anti-disrespect, anti-core values message. One voice is a powerful start. Many voices together create change.

Try saying, "Thanks for speaking up. I agree that word/behavior is disrespectful and offensive and we shouldn't use/do it."

Bias remarks or disrespect can provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and learning that will benefit our children for a lifetime.

