

Parent Partnerships

Issue 5 February, 2023



In this newsletter....

[Save these February Dates!](#)

[Celebrating Black History Month! by Mrs Wilson](#)

[Pride Academy Celebrates Black History Month!](#)

[Monday Night FootBall with the Fellas: In the Red Zone!](#)

[New Morning Drop-Off Procedure!](#)

[Keeping Everyone Safe in School and at Home!](#)

[Nutrition News!](#)

[Breakfast Menu](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Spotlight on Safety!](#)

[Affirmative Action Procedures at Pride](#)

[We Need Your Help to Reinforce High Expectations for Learning and Behavior at School](#)

[Questions and Suggestions?](#)



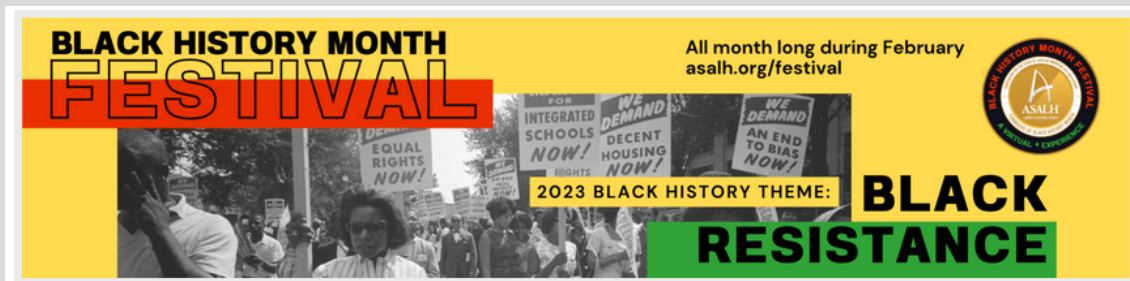
Save these February Dates!

Monday, 2/6 thru 2/28	WALK WIT EM SOCKS Fundraiser (see article below!)
Tuesday, 2/7	School Pictures from 8:30-11:00AM.
Monday, 2/6	Monday Night Football with the Fellas In-Person Ubuntu Parent Party: 5:30PM in the Common Room. Please wear your masks to the event.
Friday, 2/10	Half Day Dismissal at 12:30PM. All after school activities are cancelled and there will be no after school supervision.
Thursday, 2/16	Parent In-Person Council Meeting at 5:30PM (facial masks required)
Monday, 2/20	School Closed for President's Day
Thursday, 2/23	Pride Academy Black Excellence Showcase at 5:30PM in the Great room. Please wear your masks to the event and enter through the Shepard Ave entrance.
Looking Ahead to March!	
Thursday, 3/2	"Girls' Night In" Ubuntu In-Person Parent Party at 5:30PM
Tuesday, 2/14	Graduation Pictures from 8:30-11AM

Celebrating Black History Month! by Mrs Wilson

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) has declared **“Black Resistance”** as the 2023 national theme for Black History Month. The origins of Black History Month date back to 1915, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded ASALH, a half century after enslavement was abolished. Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February to commemorate Negro History Week because that week celebrated the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two individuals who were American symbols of freedom. It should be noted that Dr. Woodson fundamentally believed that African- American history and culture should be celebrated year-round. In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared the observance of African Americans’ contributions to the history of the United States and the world during the month of February. Ten years later in 1986, which was also the first year of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday as a national holiday, the U.S. Congress, in a joint resolution of the House and Senate, designated the month of February as “National Black History Month.” The resolution authorized and requested President Ronald Reagan to issue a proclamation in observance. In 1986, the Presidential Proclamation 5443 noted that “the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity” (About black history month). Black history and achievement are evidenced in every part of this country’s past and present. It is the core of American history and the significant contributions from people of African descent historically and at present, continue to shape this nation today.

Black resistance is rooted in identity. A prolific writer and educator, Dr. Chris Emdin challenged us to think of identity in the following way. There are two components of our identities: our core identity, who we are designed to be and sub identities, such as role identities. These are developed because of what society imposes on us and is often not aligned with our core identities. We come into the world as divine beings. Based on situations and people around us, our sub identities are often shaped to become something they are comfortable with and does not fit with our core identities. If we were to dissect the word identity, we see how resistance is necessary for our core identities to be manifested. I (me/you) - dent (to hit/punch something, apply a blow) -ity (is the state of, or degree or condition through which you are going through a process). Our identities as people of African descent may be shaped based on how we encounter these blows (circumstances) in society, and we become the state or condition of those experiences. If people around us support and empower us, or we have an awareness of self and worth, then our identities will be strong, and we won’t bend. Resistance is vital to withstand the dents that will come our way. We remind our scholars that the path has been forged for them, yet the pursuit of dreams and fight for social justice and liberation for Black and Brown people continues. Our ancestors knew and believed that education was the key to freedom and the most powerful tool to break barriers and transform lives. At Pride, we are rooted in our mission and values of peace, respect, integrity, determination, and empathy and relentless in our pursuit to affirm and empower our scholars through a solid academic and holistic environment. We are committed to honoring the significance and rich legacy of Black History 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Black History Month is a time of celebration, acknowledgement, reflection, and inspiration to continue to resist the narratives that convey messages otherwise about our identities, culture, heritage, and legacy as a people. About black history month. ASALH. (n.d.). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://asalh.org/about-us/about-black-history-month/>



For more information about the theme and other Black History events, please review the following ASALH summary <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/> and a [virtual Black History Month Festival](https://asalh.org/festival/) (<https://asalh.org/festival/>)



Pride Academy Celebrates Black History Month!

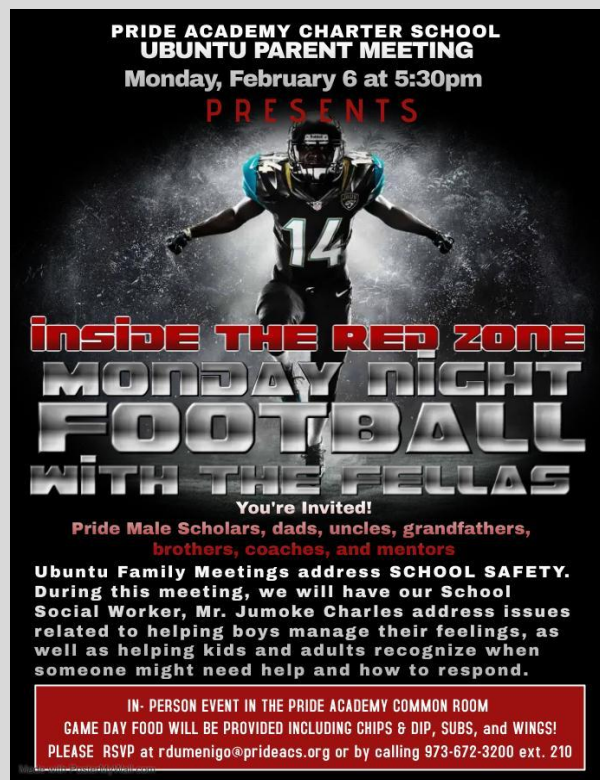
Pride Academy is always looking for ways to infuse our community with culturally responsive lessons, activities and events that celebrate Black and Brown people and their legacies. Black History Month provides us with yet another opportunity to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. This year's Pride Academy Charter School theme is **ROOTED IN OUR HISTORY**. 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.

Black History Trivia Contest - On February 10th, we will have a special Black History Month community competition event where our four Houses will answer Black History trivia questions and compete to earn points for their house.

Black History Dress Down Day - Scholars and staff will be invited to dress down on Friday, February 17th wearing either T-shirts or clothing that represents a positive Black person in history or dressing in RED, BLACK, and/or GREEN clothing to represent the African flag. (Please note that only scholars who have been in perfect uniform from January 30th to February 10th will be able to participate in this dress down day).

Black Excellence Showcase- We will be showcasing our own examples of Black EXCELLENCE by highlighting the talents of our amazing scholars through art, dance, musical performances and more. This will be an in-person event taking place in our Great Room on Thursday, February 23rd at 5:30 pm. We hope that our parents and families will join us for our celebration of BLACK JOY and TALENT!

WALK WIT EM SOCKS Fundraiser - Celebrate our HEROES and SHEROES during Black History Month by purchasing pairs of *Walk Wit Em Socks*. Each pair costs \$15 and comes with a historical sketch card that gives a brief history of the leader featured on the sock you order. For every 3 pairs of socks purchased during our fundraiser, 1 pair will be donated to the local homeless shelter. Let's FEEL the PRIDE and raise some funds! Families will be receiving the fundraising materials on February 6th and the fundraiser will run through February 28th. (Socks will be delivered sometime in mid-March.)



Monday Night Football with the Fellas: In the Red Zone!

Athletes have a quote they use often. "The pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow." These words can definitely motivate you to get through a tough workout or practice and it can also serve as a lesson in resilience. Resilience is one of the many positive lessons that sports teach our children. Unfortunately, there can also be a downside. There is a toxic masculinity culture that sometimes is evident in sports culture. This often leads to our young men feeling a reluctance to open up and ask for help when they are feeling depressed, anxious, or going through some emotional crisis.

During this Ubuntu Parent Meeting, our School Social Worker Mr. Jumoko Charles, will share information on how to help us recognize when someone needs help and how to respond to them, as well as provide our attendees with valuable information and information.

**Monday Night Football with the Fellas: In the Red Zone
Workshop for our Male Scholars and their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and male role
models Monday, February 6 @ 5:30pm**

We hope you will join us for this workshop where we will learn some strategies for supporting our young males with their mental and emotional wellness.



New Morning Drop-Off Procedure!

We have set up a new traffic procedure for Morning drop off to help ensure that students can be dropped off safely, avoid double parking, and reduce congestion around the crosswalk which makes it unsafe for the Crossing Guard and for those crossing the Elmwood/Shepard Ave intersection. We request that you please support and follow these procedures:

- Enter the coned marked drop off lane at the Elmwood Ave/Shepard Ave intersection and pull your car forward as far as you can to the last cone by the Imani Church.
- The drop off lane will not be used as a short term parking zone between 7:00-9:00AM. Please make sure your child is ready to quickly exit your car to avoid delay and back up of cars behind your vehicle. If you need to park in order to speak with your child or come into the school to speak with a staff member, please pull into the Parking Lot on the corner of Elmwood Ave and Madonna Place or park on Madonna Pl.
- Avoid stopping at the entrance of the lane or the area opposite our school's Main Entrance to drop off your child because there are cars ahead of you in the process of dropping off their child. Please wait until the car in front of you pulls forward.
- Please DO NOT stop your car in the middle of Elmwood Ave to drop off your child.
- Always drop off your child at the curb of Elmwood Ave while your car is stationary in the coned marked drop off lane.
- If you are unable to enter the drop off lane, please continue to drive along Elmwood to drop off further along the block at Imani Church or around the corner on Madonna Pl.
- Please be careful exiting the drop off lane as you pull out into ongoing traffic on Elmwood Ave.



Keeping Everyone Safe in School and at Home!

Here at Pride, we are continuing to take actions that reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 so that we can all stay in school every day! We know that the virus that causes COVID-19 is mostly spread during close contact by respiratory droplets released when people talk, sing, breathe, cough or sneeze. In addition to the steps that we are taking as school with regard to increasing ventilation, air purification in classrooms and common areas, and cleaning and disinfection of frequently used surfaces, there are personal prevention practices that all students and staff are still required to follow. These include the following:

- ❖ Wearing medical-grade masks appropriately, covering the nose and mouth at all times. Students must arrive at school with a mask and bring extra masks to keep in their book bags or lockers.
- ❖ Staying home when sick with fever and cold/flu-like symptoms
- ❖ Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently

Keep Yourself and Your Family Healthy Through Winter

“New Jerseyans are encouraged to take the necessary precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones healthy in advance of upcoming holiday gatherings. Respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are currently circulating throughout the state. Residents are particularly encouraged to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, including receiving the updated bivalent COVID-19 booster when eligible.

Everyone six months of age and older is now eligible for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccinations that target recently circulating Omicron subvariants. COVID-19 vaccines are free to everyone. Find locations offering COVID-19 vaccines and boosters on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](#) and [Community Calendar](#).

Flu vaccines, which are often covered by insurers at little to no cost to individuals, can be found at pharmacies, health care provider offices, [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#) (FQHCs), and local health departments. FQHCs and health departments may also offer the flu vaccine at little to no cost for eligible uninsured or underinsured individuals.

Everyone is encouraged to take common sense measures to protect themselves and the people around them. This includes coughing or sneezing into your sleeve, washing your hands, staying home when you're sick, and wearing a mask if you or someone you're spending time with is at high risk of severe illness. If symptoms appear, [get tested for COVID-19](#). Free at-home test kits [are available from the federal government](#) and testing is offered for free at [certain sites around New Jersey](#). Keep children home from school and child care centers if they are feeling unwell. Flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are impacting schools and child care settings in New Jersey right now.”

https://covid19.nj.gov/?utm_campaign=20221230_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Nutrition News!



Please visit our [Pride Academy school website](#) for information about our Breakfast and Lunch program and nutrition services. Students should continue to order their breakfast/lunch via an online portal on a monthly basis. If you would like to support them in their ordering, please review this [tutorial](#) shared by Ms Oates, our Main Office Coordinator.

February Menus:

 [Breakfast Menu](#)

 [Lunch Menu](#)

[Healthy Recipe Ideas: Spotlight on Lunch!](#)



[Healthy Lunch Recipes](#) - Easy to Make at Home

When children eat lunch at school they are more likely to consume milk, meats, grains and vegetables. They also have higher nutrient intakes - both at lunch and over the course of an entire day. Here are some healthy lunch recipes that you can make at home!



<https://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=1659980115310&page=asknutri>



Spotlight on Safety!

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 immediately

Affirmative Action Procedures at Pride

Grievance Procedures

Under Title IX, each school district must have a written, publicized grievance procedure for handling complaints alleging sex discrimination. Students, parents, and employees must be fully informed of the steps in the grievance process. It is strongly recommended that discrimination grievance procedures allow for complaints on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, affectional or sexual orientation, ancestry, socioeconomic status, as well as sex. Title IX does not specify a particular structure for the grievance procedure; it does require that the procedure provide for the "prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints." Therefore, all procedures must include reasonable timelines for the initiation and resolution of a grievance. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the Department of Education at the same time a grievance is filed during or after the grievance process, or without using the school district process at all. A person may also file a grievance with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. Please reach out to Ms Brower at 973-672-3200 ext. 203 for more information, support or guidance.

Notice of Statement of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

PRIDE Academy Charter School adheres to the laws and regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8; Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; N.J.S.A. 10:5, and Equal Pay Act 1973, and is committed to ensuring equality in Educational, Employment, and Contract Practices for all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.

The following staff member is our Affirmative Action Officer and designated to handle inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies or grievance procedures: **Ms Robin Brower 973-672-3200 ext. 203 or rbrower@prideacs.org** Please review our 2022-2023 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct available on our school website: <https://prideacs.org/policies-reports/>



We Need Your Help to Reinforce High Expectations for Learning and Behavior at School

- ❖ Attendance matters and students should arrive on time for school BEFORE 8:00AM each day. If they plan to eat school breakfast, students should arrive at least by 7:45AM so that they have time to eat their breakfast before the start of their school day at 8:00AM.
- ❖ Students should wear a Pride Dress Uniform or Gym Uniform each day to school. Non-Pride uniform sweaters or hoodies may not be worn during the school day. If you need any support with providing your child with a uniform, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org.
- ❖ Students should bring to school: their own face mask and extras in case they need replacements during the day, their School Agenda, pens, pencils, paper, & headphones for use with their school laptop when required. They must also bring a backpack to school so that they are prepared to carry their school laptop in their backpack from class to class and also to lunch/recess. PLEASE NOTE: Students may not carry their cell phones on their person during the school day or in their backpacks/purses or fanny packs.
- ❖ Scholars must have the essential school supplies needed for learning, such as pencils, pens, loose leaf and more. Please be sure to replenish these supplies as the school year continues.
- ❖ Students may not bring lunch or snacks that include nuts of any kind, sunflower seeds, candy/chocolate bars, carbonated drinks, and they may not share food items from home or school breakfast/lunch with others.
- ❖ If cell phones are brought to school, please know that they may not be used in school at any time (including before school and after school activities and during classes, transitions in hallways, restroom visits, lunch and recess) and must remain locked up in lockers. Cell phones will be confiscated due to lack of compliance with our expectations, and the school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.
- ❖ Students must demonstrate the core values of Peace, Respect and Empathy in their words, actions, and interactions with each other and all members of our Pride family. Students may not play fight or hit, touch, slap, kick etc. and must follow the practice of keeping their hands, feet, and belongings to themselves.
- ❖ Students should respect and take care of our school property including their school laptop learner, supplies, furniture and restrooms.
- ❖ Students must follow these practices with regard to their use of our school restrooms to respect the privacy of others, maintain a high level of cleanliness and sanitary conditions, and protect the destruction of property, fixtures and plumbing:
 1. They may only use the stalls by themselves and never be in a stall with other individuals.
 2. They may not stand on the commode or look over or under the stall doors/walls into other stalls.
 3. They may not place items of food or other objects in the commodes or urinals.
 4. They may not urinate or defecate on the floor instead of in the commode or the urinal.
 5. They may not vandalize the walls, doors and other areas of the restroom with graffiti.
 6. They may not go to the restroom with their cell phones to use their phones and/or video record themselves or others.
 7. They may not arrange with others to meet up or congregate in the restrooms at any time during the school day including class time, homeroom time, transitions, and lunch/recess, and after school activities.

For more detailed information about all of our expectations and code of conduct, please review our 2022-2023 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct available on our school website: <https://prideacs.org/policies-reports/>



Questions and Suggestions?

Your thoughts, questions and feedback are important to us. Please reach out to Mrs Thomas via email at ftomas@prideacs.org or call at 973-672-3200 ext. 201 if you would like to set up a time to meet or share about your experience at Pride so far this year.