

# Parent Partnerships

Issue 6 March, 2023



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## Save these March Dates!

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Monday, 3/6             | Wearing face masks will no longer be mandatory and Pride Academy will no longer provide or distribute masks to students.   |
| Wednesday, 3/8          | 8th Grade Parent ZOOM Meeting about Graduation at 6:00PM Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86890886951?pwd=a1l3eCtPYTdWRGJwRIJ4VUZlRjZjZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86890886951?pwd=a1l3eCtPYTdWRGJwRIJ4VUZlRjZjZz09</a> Meeting ID: 868 9088 6951 Passcode: 235724 |
| Thursday, 3/9           | Girls' Night-In In-Person Ubuntu Parent Meeting at 5:30PM  |
| Tuesday, 3/14           | 8th Grade Graduation Pictures / Cap & Gown Measurements  |
| Thursday, 3/16          | Second Trimester Report Card Parent Conferences from 3:35PM-6:00PM   |
| Friday, 3/17            | School Closed  |
| Tuesday, 3/21           | In-Person Parent Council Meeting at 5:30PM   |
| Wednesday, 3/22         | Parent SEPAG ZOOM Meeting at 6:00PM (See ZOOM details below)   |
| Tues, 3/28 & Wed, 3/29  | School Wide Interim Assessment #3 in ELA and Math  |
| Friday, 3/31            | Half-Day Dismissal at 12:30PM for Professional Development   |
| Looking Ahead to April! |  |
| Thursday, 4/6           | Half-Day 12:30 dismissal<br>Pride Academy Charter School 15th Anniversary Celebration at the Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ. For more information: <a href="http://www.prideacs.org">www.prideacs.org</a> .   |
| Friday 4/7-Friday 4/14  | Spring Break (School Reopens on Monday April 17th)   |



## Finish Strong: Tips and Tricks for Your Child to End the School Year STRONG

On **Wednesday, March 22nd**, Pride Academy's Special Education Department will host its annual Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) meeting, where they will share strategies with parents about how they can support their child and help them to end the school year on a positive note. Although SEPAG focuses on children with special needs, these strategies are helpful to all scholars.

During the meeting, teachers will share strategies for different subject areas, as well as provide parents with information on how to best utilize organization techniques and technology tools such as PowerSchool and Schoology to help their child and maximize their child's learning and growth.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this important workshop. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Dumenigo (ext. 210) or our Special Education Director, Mrs. Marash (ext.206).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83477461001?pwd=bkpQeFM1T0twSkQ4RERENDloYVB2dz09>

Meeting ID: 834 7746 1001 Passcode: 176107



## Report Card Parent-Teacher Conferences & Pick-Up

Report Cards will be distributed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday 3/16 from 3:35PM-6:00PM. Some tips and suggestion as report card conference nights approaches:

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 the proposed conference time does not work for you, please let the teacher know so that you can come up with a mutually convenient time to meet.
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 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 social-emotional well-being. You might want the teacher to show you how to get into PowerSchool, Schoology or another online platform. It's OK to ask about those things, too.
4. **Building a relationship with your child's teacher.** Use this meeting as a time to share your needs and also any positives. Teachers will appreciate your acknowledgement of their hard work and care for your children.

## Girls' Night-In Ubuntu Parent Party



UBUNTU PARENT PARTY

"GIRLS' NIGHT IN"

Thursday, March 9 at 5:30pm



**GIRLS' NIGHT IN**

*You're Invited!*

Pride moms, daughters, aunts,  
grandmothers, sisters, mentors and  
those who identify as female.

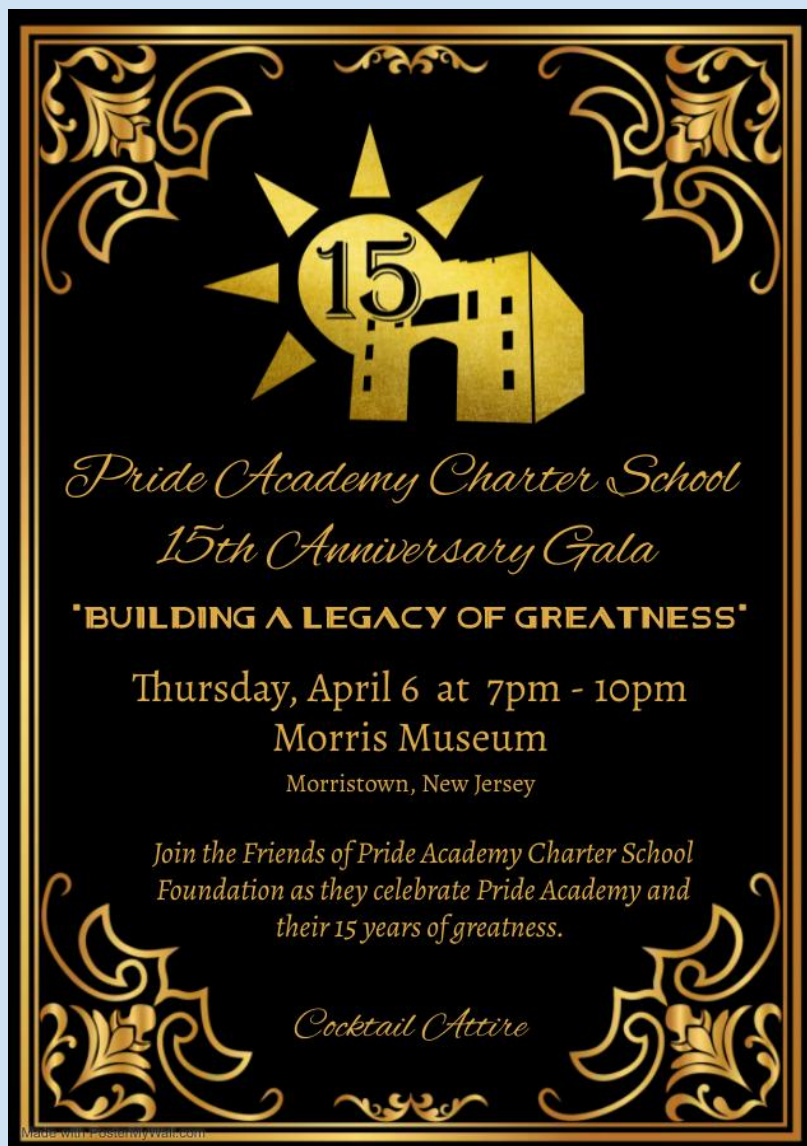
Ubuntu Family Meetings address SCHOOL SAFETY.

During this meeting, we will be discussing the impact of social media on girls self esteem and the school community.

Please join us for a lovely meal, as  
well as some sweet treats and  
delicious desserts!

 GIRLS Night

# Pride Academy Charter School 15th Anniversary Gala



Join us for Pride Academy Charter School's 15th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets are \$100 each, but we have a special incentive program for Pride parents who would like to attend.

Pride Parents who secure the purchase of sponsorship get 4 tickets to the gala.

Pride Parents who secure the purchase of a full-page ad get 2 tickets to the gala.

Pride Parents who secure the purchase of a half-page ad get 1 ticket to the gala.

For more information and ways that you or your family and friends might like to support, please visit our School Website: <https://prideacs.org/> or reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at [rdumenigo@prideacs.org](mailto:rdumenigo@prideacs.org)





## Update about Wearing Masks in School!

Thank you to all parents for supporting our mandatory mask wearing this year! Effective **Monday March 6th**, wearing masks will be optional and no longer required **EXCEPT** for the following:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, after 5 days of quarantine at home and 24 hours fever free, upon return to school they are required to wear an N95 mask consistently for the next 5 days after their return.
- If your child's physician or our School Nurse recommends continued mask wearing based on cold, flu or other symptoms, they should wear a mask while attending school.

**PLEASE NOTE:** mask wearing will still be permitted and supported at school, however, we will no longer be providing or distributing masks to students. If your child needs to or wants to wear a mask in school, they must use their own masks brought from home.



## Morning Drop-Off Procedure!

Thank you to all parents for supporting our 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. Please continue to 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.

# 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](#)

## [Kids in the Kitchen!](#)

### Videos for Healthy Easy-to-Make Recipe Ideas



#### Healthy Snacks - Fresh Vegetables & Low-fat Cheese Shish-Kabobs

Registered Dietician and SuperKids Nutrition Founder and Creator of the Super Crew®, Melissa Halas-Liang guides a team of young chefs through the fun filled process of making nutrition snacks using fresh vegetables and low-fat Cabot Cheeses. Eat more veggies!



#### Healthy Snacks - Creative Whole Grain Popcorn Treats

Registered Dietician and SuperKids Nutrition Founder and Creator of the Super Crew®, Melissa Halas-Liang, shows us how to make a multitude of flavorful and healthy snacks with popcorn. Make at least half of the grains you eat...whole grains!

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



## 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

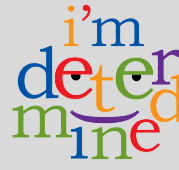
### Grievance Procedures

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.