

Parent Partnerships

Issue 8 May, 2023



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SAVE THESE DATES THIS MONTH!

| | |
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| Wednesday May 3rd | ESSA Parent Zoom Meeting at 6PM |
| Monday 5/1-5/5 | 15-Day Countdown Continues |
| Friday 5/5 | GREATNESS is MY LEGACY NJSLA Pep Rally |
| Monday 5/8 to Friday 5/19 | NJSLA State Tests in ELA and Math for all Grades NJSLA State Tests in Science for 5th and 8th Grades Please see the schedule below |
| Monday 5/8 to Friday 5/12 | Staff Appreciation Week- all week long! School Nurse Appreciation: Wednesday May 10th Social Workers Appreciation Day: Tuesday May 9th Parent Council Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week Dessert Party at 2:30PM in the Great Room on Friday May 12th |
| Friday 5/26 Monday 5/29 Tuesday 5/30 | School Closed for an extended Memorial Day weekend |
| Wednesday 5/31 | School Resumes after Memorial Day Weekend |

NJSLA STATE TESTING!

Testing Schedule

| Mon. 5/8 | Tues 5/9 | Wed. 5/10 | Thurs. 5/11 | Fri. 5/12 |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ELA test all grades | ELA test all grades | Math test all grades | Math test all grades | Math test all grades |
| Mon. 5/15 | Tues. 5/16 | Wed. 5/17 | Thurs. 5/18 | Fri. 5/19 |
| | | Science Test grades 5 & 8 | Science Test grades 5 & 8 | |

Pride Scholars have been preparing for the NJ Skills Learning Assessment Tests all year! The NJSLA tests are very important measures of their progress. Test results play a role both in promotion decisions here at Pride and are used by High Schools in the application process. Please avoid scheduling appointments and days out of school during the testing weeks. Some other ways that you can support your children over the course of the next month are the following:

Please ensure that your child:

- ☐ Gets a good night sleep before each testing day
- ☐ Eats a nutritious breakfast the morning of each testing day
- ☐ Arrives to school ON TIME by 8AM on each testing day
- ☐ Stays alert and awake during the testing periods and does their best to answer every question, complete short answer and essay questions fully and use all of their testing time.

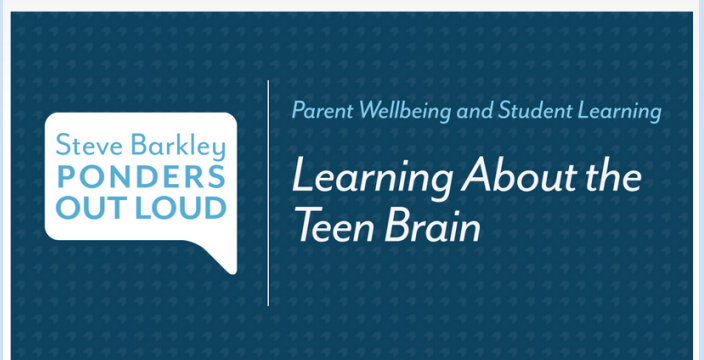
PODCAST FOR PARENTS: LEARNING ABOUT THE TEEN BRAIN

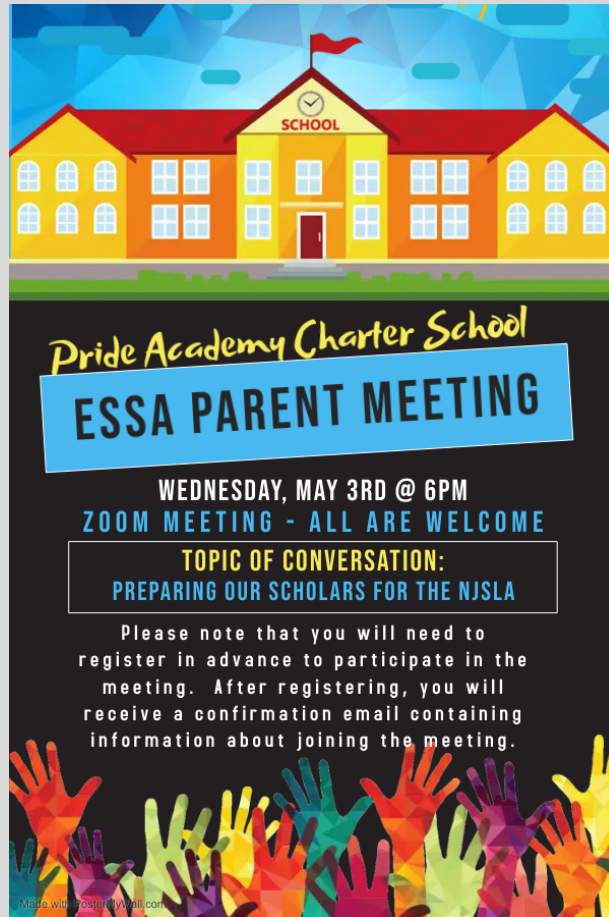
"Tara Brown, who has been called the "Teen Whisperer," shares what we know about the teen brain and how that knowledge can support parents in understanding teen needs. She describes the teen brain as a Maserati with bicycle brakes. Tara is an experienced teenager and parent life coach. Visit Tara's website here."

<https://theconnectioncoach.org/teen-life-coaching>

https://barkleypd.com/blog/podcast-for-parents-learning-about-the-teen-brain/?mc_cid=91ca9085ea&mc_eid=f3cdb68f8b

Podcast for Parents: Learning About the Teen Brain





ESSA PARENT MEETING: PRIDE IS READY FOR THE NJSLA!

Our scholars are all pumped up and excited for the NJSLA because of all that we have been doing all year to prepare. Join us for our ESSA Parent Zoom Meeting on **Wednesday, May 3rd at 6pm** and find out how Pride has been getting ready for the NJSLA through Interim Assessments, the 15-Day Countdown, and more. We will also share simple things that you can do at home to support your child and help them get ready for NJSLA. See the link below.

Please note that you will need to register in advance to participate in the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsceqgrT0sGdRIZExGmRhluDIHU2t5L-i0>



HELP PARENT COUNCIL HONOR OUR TEACHERS & STAFF!

The Parent Council will be hosting a Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week Celebration which will include dessert, drinks, and a small token of appreciation for the amazing teachers and staff that serve our children and families.

The Parent Council invites all parents and families to attend and take this opportunity to thank the teachers and staff personally for all they do. They are also looking for parents and families that would be willing to provide some baked goods and pastries for the celebration. It will take place on **Friday, May 12th at 2:30 pm** (right after dismissal) in the Great Room where staff typically gather for their weekly staff meeting.

Parents can park their cars in the parking lot or on the street and go directly to the glass doors on Shephard Ave that lead to the Great Room. (Please be sure not to block our neighbor's driveways). If you are unable to attend but would like to provide a baked good or pastries, you can bring it earlier in the day and give it to Ms. Dumenigo. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at 973-672-3200 ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org.



PARENT SURVEY!

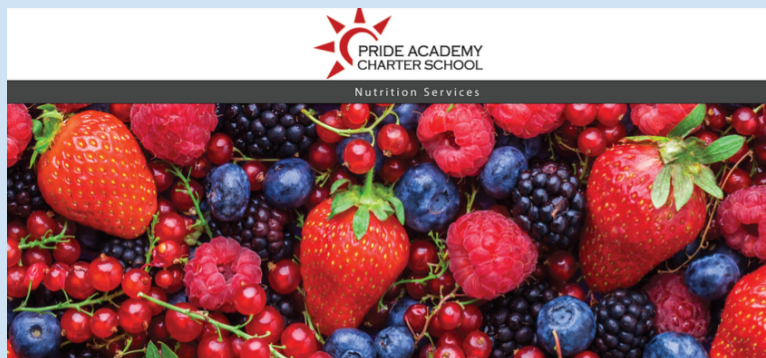
Please take the opportunity to complete this year's Parent Survey! If you have already completed a survey, you do not need to submit another. Your feedback will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with our administration and faculty as we reflect on our success and set goals for continued improvement and growth as a school community.

Students of parents who complete this survey will be provided with an opportunity to Dress Down on a designated day in May.

Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/Mc8TYdksCTtJaeU46>

Link to Suvey in SPANISH : <https://forms.gle/kuBHCWAYTdFhTF9a9>

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.

May Lunch Menu:

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Nutrition for Students is Fun!](#)



SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY!

Our district has been selected to participate in a statewide survey being conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education. The survey will be sent to you as part of a statewide effort to collect information that will allow the New Jersey Department of Education to enhance special education programs, services and supports and to improve results for children and families.

You may have received a survey in the past. We thank you for your support then and ask you to again take the time to respond to this second mailing of the survey as we continue to seek parent perspective on parent involvement in our special education programs.

During June and July of this year, you will be receiving a survey in the mail from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education. When you receive the survey, we strongly encourage you to complete and return it as soon as possible in the pre-paid self-addressed envelope. The return envelope is addressed to a private agency that will scan and summarize the information on each survey. There is also an option to complete the survey online and a code is provided for you to do the online survey. Your survey responses will remain confidential; you do not need to put your name or the name of your child on the survey. This survey will provide important information to further efforts on behalf of families and students with disabilities. We thank you in advance for your support.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS PROCEDURES!

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/>

2021-2022 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT!

We would like to share information about the 2021-2022 New Jersey School Performance Reports, which were recently released and are available on the NJ School Performance Reports webpage at www.njschooldata.org.

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about your school and district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify what schools are doing well and where they can improve

The 2021-2022 School Performance Reports include nearly all data that was previously reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as assessment results and accountability data. However, the 2021-2022 reports will not include student growth data as measured by median student growth percentiles (mSGPs). This is because individual student growth percentiles (SGPs) were not calculated for the 2021-2022 school year due to lack of prior year test results for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The student growth section of the reports will include a link to an alternate measure of academic progress that was used for accountability determinations for the 2021-2022 school year. The NJDOE plans to resume reporting mSGPs for the 2022-2023 school year.

The NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the data in the reports, along with other information collected directly within districts and communities, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and continue to find ways to address the impacts of COVID-19 and ensure all students receive the support and resources that they need. The School Performance Reports can and should be used in conjunction with available school and district data to identify priorities for upcoming year planning and the use of state and federal dollars. As data over the last three years was impacted by the pandemic in various ways, the NJDOE does recommend caution in comparing data from year to year.

What's New in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports

The focus of the 2021-2022 reports was to resume reporting all assessment and accountability data. This will be the first time since the 2018-2019 reports that the following data will be included in the School Performance Reports:

- English language arts, mathematics, and science assessment results
- English language progress toward proficiency
- ESSA accountability indicators, updated status, and progress toward meeting long-term goals

The NJDOE continues to seek public input on ways to improve future reports. Please complete the [School Performance Report feedback survey](#) or email reportcard@doe.nj.gov with feedback and suggestions.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY!

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.





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 & 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.