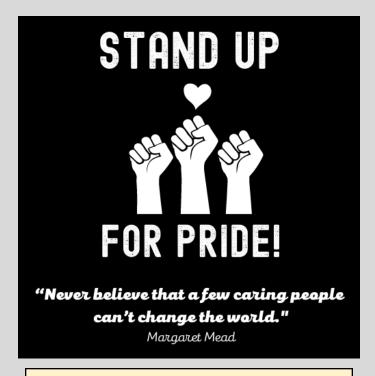
Parent Partnerships

Issue 1 October, 2023





"Stand Up For Pride" logo designed by Tahmari Farrell, 8th grade

In this newsletter....

Save the Dates!

Respect Month!

Progress Report Parent Conferences!

Keeping Everyone Safe in School and at Home!

Vaccines for Children-Tuesday Oct 10th 2-6PM

Project Pride 2023: Growing Community Leaders & Activists!

October Nutrition News!

World Icon Breakfast Menu

World Icon Lunch Menu (Hot)

Spotlight on Safety from Ms Brower!

Questions and Suggestions?



Save the Dates!

Monday, October 2nd-6th	Respect Week - State-Wide Focus on Anti-Bullying and Positive Life Choices that keep our kids Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Free
Wednesday, October 4th	In-Person Game Night Parent Party at 5:30 pm (See details in Respect Month Article)
Thursday, October 5th	Jersey Dress Down Day (See details in Respect Month Article)
Friday, October 6th	Healthy Kids Day / Half Day 12:30pm Dismissal
Monday, October 9th	No School in observance of Indigenous People's Day
Wednesday, October 11th	In-Person Progress Report Parent Conferences 3:35 to 6pm
Wednesday, October 18th	In-Person Parent Council Meeting at 5:30pm
Thursday, October 26th	In-Person Latin Dance Parent Party at 5:30pm



Pride Academy Charter School joins all other New Jersey public schools during the first week of October to address the issue of bullying and address issues related to violence and vandalism during the third week of October. Because "RESPECT" is a core value and an integral part of our school community, Pride Academy typically spends the entire month focusing on issues connected to respect. This year, the Class of 2026 will be spearheading events as part of the winning Project Pride proposal developed by Yasim Wade and Jamal Lawrence Jr last year. Their proposal focused on using our annual *Healthy Kids Day* to inform scholars about the impact of smoking, vaping, and marijuana use on adolescents with asthma. Together they decided on the theme, "BE A WINNER! Stay Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Free!" They also came up with the idea of creating an informational pamphlet to distribute at our Healthy Kids Day event along with a trophy-shaped stress ball to go along with the theme. They also invited 10 classmates to join the committee and come up with the finishing touches on the event.

Throughout the month of October, we will have special lessons and activities that remind us of how we can combat bullying by living the core value of respect.

- ★ Mr. Altamirano, Ms. Farl and Mr. Charles will incorporate lessons during PE/Health classes on a variety of age-appropriate topics. 5th Grade will discuss "Respecting Self" by self-regulating our emotions and communicating our feelings using words instead of anger and violence. 6th grade will focus on "Respecting Others" through Bullying Prevention. 7th Grade will learn about Healthy Relationships, and 8th Grade will discuss Healthy Relationships and Dating Violence.
- ★ Ms. Brower will also be addressing 5th graders to discuss "What is Violence?" during the month of October.

Respect Week 2023:

- ★ Monday, October 2nd: Stand Up for Pride Day Encouraging scholars to be Upstanders instead of bystanders when they see bullying or people not living the Pride core values.
- ★ Tuesday, October 3rd: Be Kind Day Challenging all Pride Scholars to perform Random Acts of Kindness
- ★ Wednesday, October 4th: In-Person Game Night Parent Party at 5:30 pm. During this meeting, we will PLAY GAMES, WIN PRIZES, and learn about how we can help our children BE WINNERS and stay alcohol, tobacco, and drug free. We will be joined by Robin Lavorato, Executive Director of the Essex Healthy and Wellness Recovery Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center. We will be serving pizza for all our Pride parents, families, and children who attend, so please be sure to RSVP by Tuesday, October 3rd so that we can be sure to have enough food and refreshments for everyone.
- ★ Thursday, October 4: Scholars Dress Down in a Sports Jersey or T-shirt and commit to being WINNERS and making positive choices.
- ★ Friday, October 6th: Healthy Kids Day from 10:30 to 12pm at Elmwood Park. Pride Parents and Families are invited to join us for this FUN PRIDE FAMILY COMMUNITY EVENT where you will get great information from Local Community Organizations, Free Information and Giveaways, and A FREE PRIDE PARENT T-SHIRT* while supplies last. All Pride Scholars are asked to wear their Pride Gym Uniforms on Healthy Kids Day. It will be a Half-Day 12:30pm dismissal from our school building. (Students will not be dismissed from Elmwood Park).

Please reach out to Ms Brower or Mrs. Thomas if you have questions or concerns about any incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Other useful NJDOE web resources for parents addressing a range of related topics include the following: The Keeping Our Kids Safe, Healthy, and in School website http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/sandp/ and The Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) web page http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib



Progress Report Parent Conferences!

Progress Report Parent-Teacher Conference night is scheduled for Wednesday 10/11 and between 3:30pm and 6:00pm to pick up your child's progress report and meet with teachers. If you are unable to make it, please call your child's teacher to set up a Zoom conference time or phone call conversation.

To prepare for your conference, please consider these tips:

- Prepare your questions in advance
- Ask to look at your child's work.
- Share your expertise about your child that may be impacting your child's academic performance or conduct and help the teacher understand how best to work with your child.
- ❖ Be prepared to hear good news as well as perhaps hearing news that may be disappointing or surprising. Your children's teachers may have insights and knowledge about your child's learning and behavior that you may not have heard before. Be open to discussing these calmly and professionally.
- After the conference, be sure to take time to sit down with your child to discuss his/her progress report. Celebrate the strengths and address the concerns by coming up with a plan to make improvements.

Keeping Everyone Safe in School and at Home!

Here at Pride, we are continuing to take actions that reduce the spread of illnesses and COVID-19 so that we can all stay in school every day! We know that the virus that causes COVID-19 and flu 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 a 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 scholars, staff and families are strongly recommended to follow. These include the following:

- Staying up to date with COVID-19 booster vaccinations and this year's Flu shot
- Staying home when sick with fever and cold/flu-like symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea
- Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently
- ❖ Wearing masks is voluntary at this time. However, please be aware that we may move to universal mandatory mask wearing if COVID-19 levels rise in our county or district and/or if we begin to experience an increase in COVID-19 and Flu outbreaks in our school community.

Information about vaccinations can be found <u>HERE</u> and also in the fliers attached to the Alert email message.

Vaccines for Children-Tuesday Oct 10th 2-6PM



"Essex County and RWJBarnabas Health share a common goal of promoting healthy lifestyles and wellness among our residents. That is why we are partnering to bring a variety of medical screenings, information and support to your neighborhood. We encourage you to take advantage of the services being offered on our Mobile Health Clinics."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



RWJBarnabas HEALTH



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.,

Essex County Executive

The Board of County Commissioners

RWJ Barnabas Health

And the Essex County Office of Public Health Management

Vaccines for Children (VFC)

Offering all the recommended childhood vaccines, including the COVID-19 Vaccine

Watsessing Park
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
2 PM - 6 PM
38 Conger St Bloomfield

Eligibility Requirements:

(Children through 18 years of age)

- Medicaid enrolled NJ Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare Plan A
- Uninsured
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

Vaccines For Children are available by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment, call 973-877-8456

Putting Essex County's Health First

Project Pride 2023: Growing Community Leaders & Activists!

From hosting food drives to developing anti-gun campaigns, Pride Scholars used their critical thinking skills, creativity, and concern for social justice issues to develop amazing Project Pride service projects that impacted our community and world in a positive way.

From its conception, Pride Academy Charter School has been "dedicated to academic achievement, mastery of fundamental skills, positive leadership, and active service..." To that end, Pride Academy challenges scholars to develop proposals for annual grade-level service projects as part of our "Project Pride" service initiative, which challenges students to be community leaders and activists by working to address a variety of social issues. Fifth graders develop projects around the topic of Health. Sixth (6th) graders focus on Poverty. Seventh (7th) graders focus on Violence. Eighth (8TH) graders on Education.

After months of developing proposals, reviewing and voting on the best proposals, and then developing the actual plan for their service projects, scholars brought their ideas to life.

Sixth grader, Adara Bacote, turned her passion for drawing and art into an opportunity to feed those in need by developing a Student Art Show which invited students to view student art with the donation of non-perishable food items as the only cost of admission. At the event, 30 works of student art were displayed and members of the school community were able to view art work and vote for the winner of the "People's Choice Award." First, Second, and Third place winners received certificates and Amazon gift cards. The event collected 6 shopping bags full of non-perishable items for the Imani Baptist Food Pantry.

Through the leadership of three dynamic seventh graders, Selena Apparicio, Sydney Brown, and Akeylah Evans, Pride Academy participated in *National Wear Orange Day against Gun Violence* on June 2nd. They sold orange bandanas for scholars to wear on the day and also had a snack sale to support the non-profit, *Everytown Against Gun Violence*. Their efforts raised a total of \$446 for Everytown.

The Class of 2023 decided to reconnect with East Orange Community Charter School by reading to kindergarten and first grade clases to promote the importance of reading and literacy. This project was developed by Brandon Ash and Ashley Jean Paul who selected a group of 10 eighth graders to go to EOCCS where they had the opportunity to read to some classes and share motivational messages with the 4th graders about what they had learned during their time at Pride Academy about how to be successful in school so that you can go to a great high school and have a successful future.

This month, 6th graders, Yasim Wade and Jamal Lawrence Jr, are finalizing their plans for the service project they developed last year. They're working on a brochure and giveaways to give to the whole school during our annual Healthy Kids Day on Friday, October 6th. Yasim, Jamal and members of their committee will have a vendor table at the event with information about how smoking, vaping, and marijuana negatively impact those with asthma. Their slogan is "Be a Winner! Stay Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Free!" This creative "Be a Winner!" sports theme will be carried out throughout Respect Week with a Parent Party Game Night, a Sports Jersey Dress Down Day, and special games and competitions that we are preparing for the Healthy Kids Day.

We're so proud of our Pride Scholars and how they are doing their part to make the world a better place!





Elmwood Park

Parents who attend must wait till children are dismissed from their homerooms at 12:30pm.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS BE A WINNER: STAY ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG FREE!

CLASS OF 2026 PROJECT PRIDE COMMITTEE LED BY YASIN WADE & JAMAL LAWRENCE WILL BE PROVIDING BROCHURES & GIVEAWAYS ON THE IMPACTS OF SMOKING, VAPING AND MARIJUANA USE ON ADOLESCENTS WITH ASTHMA

THE GOAL OF OUR ANNUAL HEALTHY KIDS DAY IS TO RAISE MONEY FOR HEALTHY AND POSITIVE AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR OUR PRIDE SCHOLARS THAT WILL PUT THEM ON THE RIGHT PATH TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL FUTURES.

WE CHALLENGE EACH SCHOLAR TO RAISE AT LEAST \$40 IN DONATIONS THAT WILL GO TOWARDS PAYING FOR **amazing student activities opportunities** such AS TEAM SPORTS, INCLUDING FLAG FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AND SOCCER. AS WELL AS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES LIKE ART CLUB, DIRECTOR'S CLUB, YEARBOOK, AFRICAN DANCE, DREAMALITY CHOIR, MATH COUNTS, DANCE CLUB, BOYS AND GIRLS MENTORING, CHEERLEADING, AND MORE.

October Nutrition News!

Please visit our <u>Pride Academy school website</u> for information about our Breakfast and Lunch program and nutrition services. Students can order their lunch via an online portal and they will do this on a monthly basis. If you would like to support them in their ordering, please reach out to Ms Oates, our Main Office Coordinator.

Breakfast Menu









Spotlight on Safety from Ms Brower!

#1: Preventing Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

Each month, this column will feature information, articles, and links to resources to increase understanding of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABBR) statute and support practices that promote a safe and positive school climate at Pride. It is our goal to ensure all school staff, administrators, volunteers and contracted service providers develop the expertise required to recognize, prevent and respond appropriately to incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

What is the purpose of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights?

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act is intended to:

- Clarify and strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating and responding to incidents of HIB of students that occur on school grounds and off school grounds under specified circumstances;
- Respond to research on the incidence, prevalence and effects of HIB that has emerged since the adoption of the original HIB laws adopted in 2002 and amended in 2007 and 2008;
- Establish clearer standards for the definition of HIB:
- Use and better manage existing resources to increase school safety;
- Reduce the risk of suicide due to HIB.

Every member of the school community plays a role in making sure our children have a safe environment in which to learn. The ABBR spells out the specific roles and responsibilities of the school staff, administrators, volunteers and contracted service providers in addressing HIB.

It is vital that you are clear about how you should respond. It is the law.

#2: What is HIB? Under the law, HIB is defined as:

- 1. "any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, c122 (C.18A:37-15-3), that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that
- 2. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; or
- 3. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or

4. Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

To qualify as HIB, an incident must be based upon a real or perceived characteristic as identified in paragraph I, AND meet the criteria in paragraphs II, III, or IV.

Is all harassment, intimidation and bullying considered HIB under the law?

No. As broad as the categories are under the ABBR HIB definition, they do not cover all types of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Unless the bullying is based upon one of the real or perceived characteristics outlined in paragraph 1, AND one or more of the criteria in paragraphs 2, 3, or 4 of the definition apply, it is not considered a HIB incident under the law.

Refer all suspected incidents to Ms. Brower, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, to Mrs. Thomas, Principal or another administrator.

If an incident is not considered HIB under the law, do I still report it?

Absolutely. Pride Academy does not permit harassment, intimidation or bullying of any type. Source: NJDOE Guidance for Schools on Implementing the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Rights.



Questions and Suggestions?

Your thoughts, questions and feedback are important to us. Please reach out to Mrs Thomas via email at fthomas@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.