

Parent Partnerships

Issue 8 May, 2024



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

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Save the Dates!

Thursday, May 2nd	Parent Council Meeting at 5:30pm
Friday, May 3rd	NJSLA Pep Rally - ALL SCHOLARS WEAR THEIR PEP RALLY T-SHIRT
Monday, May 6th-10th	NJSLA State Testing for all students
Monday, May 6th-10th	Staff Appreciation Week! Social Workers Appreciation Day: Tuesday May 7th School Nurse Appreciation: Wednesday May 8th
Friday, May 10th	Parent Council Teacher & Staff Appreciation Celebration @ 2pm
Friday, May 26th	Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal for Memorial Day Weekend
Monday, May 27th	School Closed for Memorial Day

LOOKING AHEAD:

Wed, June 5th: 5th & 6th Grade Field Trip to Bronx Zoo

Thurs, June 6th: 7th & 8th Grade Field Trip to Bronx Zoo

Tuesday, June 11th: End of the Trimester

Wed, June 12th - 14th: Pride Spirit Games

Mon, June 17th: Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal & Graduation Social at 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Tues, June 18th: Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal

Wed, June 19th: School Closed in observance of Juneteenth

Thurs, June 20th: Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal & Graduation Commencement at 6 pm



Pride Parent Survey 2023-2024

Parents/Guardians: Please read each statement and select the choice that most matches your response. We appreciate the time and grace that you will bring to sharing your reflections with us. Students of parents who complete this survey will be provided with an opportunity to Dress Down on a designated day in April or June.

Parent Survey!

If you haven't yet completed this year's Parent Survey, please take the opportunity to complete it! 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/g6uPhRYeAugj9BDa6>

NJSLA STATE TESTING!

Testing Schedule

Mon. 5/6	Tues 5/7	Wed. 5/8	Thurs. 5/9	Fri. 5/10
ELA test all grades	ELA test all grades	Math test all grades	Math test all grades	Math test all grades
Mon. 5/13	Tues. 5/14	Wed. 5/15	Thurs. 5/16	Fri. 5/17
		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.



10-Day Countdown!

At Pride Academy Charter School, we work hard to get our scholars excited about state testing. We see the NJSLA as nothing to dread or be anxious about, instead we approach it as an opportunity to show the state and the community how much our Pride Scholars have grown academically. That is absolutely something to be proud of.

The theme of this year's 10-Day Countdown to the NJSLA is **"Pride Lions: Get It Done!"** The countdown will start on Monday, April 22 and will go on for the 10 days leading up to the NJSLA Pep Rally on May 3rd.

During those 10 days, our scholars will start their day with a chance to win fun prizes for answering sample test questions. Each day has a specific focus: Math Monday will involve practicing solving equations and reviewing math. Text Clues Tuesdays will provide scholars with opportunities to define vocabulary words using the context clues within a sentence. Word Problem Wednesday will challenge scholars with math word problems. Thoughtful Thursday will support ELA goals by having scholars respond to writing prompts. Finally, Fantastic Friday will challenge students to improve basic sentences and make them FANTASTIC by using creative and descriptive vocabulary words.

At the end of the 10 days, we'll have the whole community participate in NJSLA Pep Rallies where we will recognize scholars who had the Top Scores and showed the Most Growth in our last interim assessments. This will no doubt help give our scholars the motivation and confidence they need to face the NJSLA head on.

NJSLA
Pep Rally

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD

All scholars must wear their **PEP RALLY T-SHIRTS** with their Pride gym sweatpants or shorts.

PEP RALLY T-SHIRTS will be distributed on Wednesday, May 1st. Scholars may not wear the Pep Rally T-shirt till Fri, May 3rd.

PEP RALLY T-SHIRT artwork by
Kamir Tyson, Grade 5

Help the Parent Council Honor Our Teachers & Staff!

The Parent Council will be hosting a Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week Celebration which will include small meal plates, desserts, 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. The Parent Council is also looking for parents and families who would be willing to provide some food, desserts, and/or beverages for the celebration. If you are unable to attend but would like to provide a food item for the celebration, you can bring it earlier in the day and give it to Ms. Dumenigo. (Please note that we will not be able to keep food warm, so if you are dropping items off in the morning, it can only be a cold item.)

Our celebration will take place on **Friday, May 10th at 2:30 pm** (right after dismissal) in the Common 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 Common Room. (Please be sure not to block our neighbor's driveways.)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at 973-672-3200 ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org.

**Pride Academy Parent Council
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
CELEBRATION!**

*Join the Parent Council
as they celebrate our amazing
Pride Teachers & Staff*

**Friday, May 10th @ 2 pm
in the Common Room**

Parents and families that would like to contribute a small food plate or dessert, please see the information provided in the accompanying article.



Parent Council Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray

Our Pride Academy Parent Council is working with the 365 Foundation to co-host a Designer Bag Bingo and Tricky Tray Fundraiser on Saturday, May 18th. We will play 10 Bingo games. The prize for each Bingo game is a Designer Bag from Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, and Marc Jacob's. In between Bingo games, we'll also be having a Tricky Tray, 50/50 raffles, and more. Please bring your friends and family for a great time. You are welcome to bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages to eat and share with your table. The Parent Council will also be selling plates of chicken, baked ziti, salad, and a roll for \$10 (while supplies last.)

The proceeds of this event will go to the Friends of Pride Academy Hopes and Dreams Fund. The Hopes and Dreams Fund provides teachers with the opportunity to develop and implement experiences that enrich the learning in their classrooms by funding educational programs, academic and cultural trips, special events, and the purchase of materials and equipment. For instance, our 8th-grade scholars were able to go to see the play 'Keep Marching: The Road to the March On Washington' at NJPAC, which added context to their study of the novel "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School." Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased on the Pride Academy website or scan the QRS code to purchase tickets.

Pride Academy Parent Council & 365 Foundation
Present



Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray

Saturday, May 18th from 4pm to 8pm
DOORS OPEN AT 3:50 PM

\$35 per person
Includes: Admission, 10 Bingo Game Sheets,
1 Tricky Tray Sheet, Door Prize Ticket
**Bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages or purchase
food and beverages that will also be sold.*



SCAN HERE!

PRIDE ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
117 Elmwood Avenue
Please use the Glass Door Entrance to
Great Room on Shephard Avenue

Proceeds go to
Friends of Pride Academy
Hopes & Dreams Fund

www.prideacs.org




Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray

PREVIEW OF SOME OF OUR PRIZES

DESIGNER BAGS

FROM



TRICKY TRAY PRIZES

INCLUDING



This is a fundraiser for
Friends of Pride Academy
Hopes & Dreams Fund

www.prideacs.org



2022-2023 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT!

We would like to share information about the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 School Performance Reports include all data that was previously reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes all assessment, student growth, and accountability data.

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 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 2022-2023 School Performance Reports: The 2022-2023 School Performance Reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback, federal and state requirements, and data availability. These changes include:

- Student growth data as measured by median student growth percentile for the first time since the 2018-2019 reports;
- Expanded computer science course participation data showing participation for all grades kindergarten through 12; and
- Results from the fall 2023 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability process.

The NJDOE continues to seek public input on ways to improve future reports. Please complete the [School Performance Report feedback survey](#) School Performance Report feedback survey or email reportcard@doe.nj.gov with feedback and suggestions. Please review the following article to read about Pride Academy's success!

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-orange-slash-orange/articles/pride-academy-charter-school-leads-the-way-in-student-growth-ranking-in-top-1-statewide>

The screenshot shows a web browser interface for Tapinto East Orange/Orange. The header includes the Tapinto logo, navigation links for 'Login', 'Submit Content', and 'Newsletter Signup', and a search bar. Below the header is a featured article banner for RWJBarnabas Health with the text 'Joy delivered daily In our maternity unit.' and a 'LEARN MORE' button. The main content area displays the article title 'Pride Academy Charter School Leads the Way in Student Growth, Ranking in Top 1% Statewide' under the 'Education' category. The page also includes a 'Press Releases' section and a 'Sponsored Content' label.



May Nutrition News!

Please visit our [Pride Academy school website](#) 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

May Breakfast				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
100% Apple Juice W/G Cinnamon Toasters Cereal corn Muffin Mixed Fruit Cup Milk	MultiGrain Cheerios Cereal Apple Breakfast Bar Milk	W/G Croissant with Margarine Fresh Orange Milk	Blueberry Bagel w/ cream cheese Fresh Apple Milk	100% Orange Juice Frosted Mini Wheat Cereal W/G Banana Muffin Strawberry Applesauce cup Milk
18 W/G Corn Flakes Cereal with w/g Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Milk	14 Peach Applesauce Cup 100% Fruit Punch W/G Corn Flakes Cereal with Vanilla Bear Graham	16 Honey Wheat Bagel with Cream Cheese Mandarin Orange Milk	9 100% Fruit Punch Blueberry Muffin Flat Diced Pear Cup Milk	10 W/G Fruit Loops Cereal Peach Applesauce Cup 100% Grape Juice Milk
20 Fresh Apple W/G Corn Chex Cereal W/G Graham Crackers Milk	21 100% Orange Juice MultiGrain Cheerios Cereal Applesauce Cup Milk	22 100% Grape Juice W/G Fruit Loops Cereal Peach Applesauce Cup Milk	23 W/G Frosted Flakes w/g Vanilla Bear Grahams 100% Strawberry Rice Juice Diced Pear Cup Milk	24 Frosted Mini Wheat Cereal Mandarin Orange Cup 100% Grape Juice Milk
27 CLOSED NO SCHOOL!	28 W/G Special K Cereal with W/G Graham Crackers Fresh Orange Milk	29 W/G Croissant with Margarine Fresh Apple Milk	30 Milk Diced Pear Cup 100% Grape Juice W/G Cinnamon Raisin Bagel with Cream Cheese	31 Blueberry Bagel w/ cream cheese 100% Orange Juice Mixed Fruit Cup Milk

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Lunch Menu (Hot)

Hot, Alternate, and Vegetarian Lunch.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
6 Mini Cheese Quesadilla with Beef Kitchy Beans W/G W/G Butter & Strawberry jelly jammer with Black Bean & Corn Salad Fresh Apple Milk	7 Beef Meatloaf with ketchup, French Fries and Wheat Dinner Roll Bean and Cheese Burrito with French Fries Turkey and Cheese on a W/G Kaiser Roll Applesauce Cup Milk	8 Cheese Lasagna with Meat Cheese whole wheat dinner rolls Cheese Manicotti w/Spaghetti Fresh Beans Beef Bologna & Cheese on W/G Potato Bun Celery Sticks w/ Dip Milk	9 French Toast Sticks w/ Turkey Sausage Links & Cereal French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Veggie Sausage Patty All Beef Italian Sub (Beef Bologna, Beef Sausage, and American Cheese) Mixed Fruit Cup Milk	10 Domino's Pizza Slice Romano Salad w/ Dressing Fresh Orange Milk
13 Grilled Chicken Fillet with Veggie Chutney Pomey with Mashed Potatoes W/G W/G Butter Grape jelly jammer with 3 Bean Salad Cup Diced Pear Cup Milk	14 W/G Precision Chicken w/ Sweet and Sour Sauce, Seasoned Diced Potatoes, Whole Grain Bread Veggie Nuggets w/ Sweet & Sour Sauce, With Seasoned Diced Potatoes Turkey & Cheese on W/G Potato Bun Fresh Apple Milk	15 All Beef Hamburger on Whole Wheat Bun Veggie Burger on a Whole Wheat Bun All Beef Italian Sub (Beef Bologna, Beef Sausage, and American Cheese) Fresh Beans Fresh Baby Carrots w/ Dip Milk	16 Salisbury Steak with Teriyaki Sauce with Black Beans, Turkey Ham and Swiss Cheese on a W/G Bread, Potato Salad Cup Teriyaki Veggie Chicken Patty on Wheat Bun Applesauce Cup Milk	17 Domino's Pizza Slice Romano Salad w/ Dressing Fresh Orange Milk
20 Chicken Burger with Whole Wheat Bun, Vegetarian Beans Veggie Chicken Patty on Whole Wheat Bun, W/G W/G Butter Strawberry jelly jammer, 3 Bean Salad Cup Mandarin Orange Cup Milk	21 BBQ Beef Ribbit on Wheat Hamburger Bun Vegetarian Beans Mini Cheese Quesadilla w/ Mashed Potatoes Turkey and Cheese on W/G Bread with sliced Cucumber w/Cup Fresh Apple Milk	22 W/G W/G Butter Grape jelly jammer with 3 Bean Salad Cup Beef Bologna & Cheese on W/G Potato Bun Diced Pear Cup Fresh Baby Carrots w/ Dip Milk	23 Chicken Meatballs with Teriyaki Sauce with Onion and Mixed Vegetables Veggie Meatballs with Teriyaki Sauce, Onions Mixed Vegetables, Shred Chicken and Cheese on W/G Kaiser Roll Milk	24 Half Day Orange Tangerine Juice whole grain vanilla All Sports Bites Milk
27 CLOSED	28 W/G Breaded Chicken Patty on Wheat Hamburger Bun Veggie Chicken Patty w/ French Fries W/G W/G Butter Grape jelly jammer with 3 Bean Salad Cup Fresh Apple Milk	29 Beef Bologna and Cheese on a Whole Wheat Kaiser Roll American Cheese on a Whole Grain Sub Roll All Beef Italian Sub (Beef Bologna, Beef Sausage, and American Cheese) Milk	30 W/G Cheeseburger Calzone with Celery Sticks with Dip Fresh Baby Carrots w/ Dip Cheese Pizza Calzone with Celery Sticks Shred Chicken and Cheese on W/G Kaiser Roll Fresh Apple Milk	31 Domino's Pizza Slice Romano Salad w/ Dressing Fresh Orange Milk

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Spotlight on Safety! TikTok Challenges by Ms Brower

Research indicates that children and adolescents spend more time in front of screens, using cell phones, playing games and perusing social media each day than they do engaging in academic pursuits such as studying and completing homework. Most parents of children from 10 to 18 years old will not find this surprising. Our children are attached to their electronic devices every minute we allow them to be. Those devices provide a sense of security to parents and guardians who need the ability to contact their children when they are away from home. They provide a sense of connection to a generation of youth forced to remain separate during COVID-19. Cell phones, computers and tablets continue to provide connections to information and education, to entertainment, to friends, and, unfortunately, sometimes to strangers, now that the world has reopened.

Our children daily witness the rise of a new generation of Internet celebrities who gain fame and money on social media by producing and sharing video content in the hope that it will “go viral” or be widely viewed online. Added to the ever-popular career choices of professional athletes, musicians, and other types of performance artists is a new and increasingly popular career choice with young people, “the Influencer.” These individuals gain followers, likes, subscribers, TV and music careers, commercial endorsements and sponsorships as their video content grows in popularity.

What our children view online holds great power over them. You need only to watch a crowd of young people at a party performing the exact same Tik Tok “dance challenge” to recognize the power of the Internet and social media. Conversely, one can also view the small group of youngsters at that same party that refuse to dance to a song because they do not know the associated Tik Tok “dance challenge”.

In most cases, the content that influences youth takes the form of benign humor and silly, harmless pranks. In some cases, however, children are encouraged to undertake challenges that are destructive, illegal, or downright dangerous. Listed below are three challenges that have resulted in injury or death and their descriptions. Please follow the links below for additional information on dangerous challenges and research on how and why young people engage in these behaviors.

Please discuss the topic of challenges on TikTok and other social media with your child. Help them to make good, safe choices and encourage them to notify Ms. Brower, Dean of Students at 973.672.3200, extension 201, (rbrower@prideacs.org) or Mrs. Thomas, Principal at 973.672.3200, extension 201, if they become aware that students are engaging in any challenge or behavior that could result in physical or emotional injury. Student safety is our priority.

The Skull Breaker /Tripping Challenge: Involves three parties, one of whom is unaware that the challenge is being undertaken. As the uninformed party in the middle jumps, the other two individuals kick the uninformed party’s legs out from under them causing them to trip and/or fall. This has resulted in serious head injuries to a number of students, including to one in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

The Choking/Blackout Challenge: Involves an individual holding their breath or using a household object to choke/strangle themselves until they lose consciousness. This challenge is extremely dangerous and has resulted in injuries and deaths including an incident in which two South Orange Middle School students lost consciousness and required medical attention.

“One-Chip” Challenge: Involves an individual eating an extremely spicy tortilla chip and then waiting as long as possible before drinking or eating anything to alleviate the pain. The active ingredient in these items can cause swelling and irritation that requires medical attention. Such chips are not permitted in school.

Sources & Resources:

Ortega-Barón, J., Machimbarrena, J.M., Montiel, I. et al. Viral internet challenges scale in preadolescents: An exploratory study. *Curr Psychol* 42, 12530–12540 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-021-02692-6>

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Injury Research & Prevention, Dangerous Social Media Challenges Research In Action blog post on February 15, 2023,

21 Dangerous Tik Tok trends Every Parent Should Be Aware Of, Published Mar 06, 2021, at 7:00 PM EST <https://www.newsweek.com/21-dangerous-tiktok-trends-that-have-gone-viral-1573734>

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Injury Research & Prevention, The Skull Breaker Challenge and Concussions By Patty Huang, March 17, 2020

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 is designated to handle inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies or grievance procedures:

Ms Robin Brower

117 Elmwood Ave,

East Orange, NJ 07108

973-672-3200 ext. 203

Please review our 2023-2024 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and HIB reporting processes 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.