



Save the Dates:

- Teacher Appreciation Week: **May 3rd - 7th**
- Nurse's Appreciation Day: **Thursday May 6th**
- NJASK Testing for 5th & 6th graders: **May 3rd - 6th**
- Admissions Lottery for 2010-2011: **Wednesday May 5th at 5pm**
- Parent Council Meeting: **Thursday May 6th at 6pm**
- Reach for the Stars Literacy Campaign: **ends Friday, May 7th**
- Board Meeting: **Tuesday May 11th**
- Memorial Day, School Closed: **Monday May 31st**

Reach for the Stars Literacy Campaign

To ensure that our students are exercising their brains at home during the NJASK testing season, Pride Academy is leading the "REACH FOR THE STARS" Literacy Campaign. Students are being challenged to read at least 30 minutes a night for two weeks. Students are also being asked to get pledges from sponsors and they will use the money that they collect to purchase their own books to read over the summer vacation.

Let's work together to reach for the STARS and READ for life and leisure! Our school wide goal is to read for a total of at least **72,000 minutes!**

Suggestions, comments, questions: please contact us at
Phone: (973) 672-3200
<http://www.prideacs.org>

Thinking of Someone other than You!

We often hear about the importance of having self-esteem and ensuring that we nurture the ability in our children and ourselves of valuing ourselves and becoming comfortable with who we are and how we present ourselves to the world. Having and showing esteem for others, for a cause, for a mission, for a community, or for a dream are also vital habits and skills for our children to be able to practice and appreciate.

May is the perfect month to encourage our children to take time to appreciate and show how much they truly value others in their lives, especially the adults and elders in their lives. We celebrate **Teachers' Appreciation Week** during the week of May 3rd - 7th, **Nurses' Day** on May 6th, and **Mother's Day** on May 9th.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

~William Arthur Ward

Let's try to create opportunities for our children to think of sincere and heartfelt ways to show appreciation and how much they value and hold their elders in esteem. A note, a thank you, a special card or a drawing can mean the world to a teacher or parent. This month, let's help our children find ways to express their caring and appreciation to those who sacrifice and serve each and every day in order to make a difference in their lives.

Celebrating and Caring for the Earth!

By Mrs. Volastro

The Earth Club has been hard at work all year trying to establish a recycling program at Pride Academy. We are happy and proud to announce that our hard work, effort, and determination have paid off and our school now has its very own recycling program! Each classroom has a blue recycling bin, which students and teachers can use to discard paper, and there is a bin in the Common Room that can be used to recycle cans and bottles.

The Earth Club knows the importance of keeping our Earth clean. Once a week, the Earth Club students put on their protective gloves to pick up garbage around our community. The enthusiasm the students have shown in beautifying the community is admirable, and I would encourage parents and guardians to reinforce and speak with your children about the importance of not littering and making life-style decision that help to protect, save, and clean our Earth and natural resources. Together we can ensure a clean community and set positive examples for future generations.

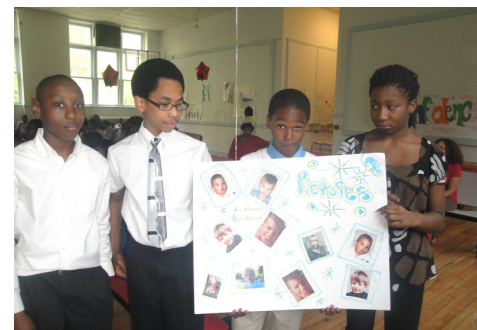
And finally, during Progress Report Card Night, the Earth Club sold flower templates that they created on recycled paper to help purchase *live* flowers that will be planted in front of the school during the second week of May. Thank you to all families who made donations for this purpose!

The Earth Club and I look forward to continuing our mission to ensure a clean and beautiful community and school.

Genetics Expo by Ms Cenac

On April 21, 2010, the seventh graders hosted the 2nd Annual Genetics Expo. Prior to the formal presentations at the Exposition, the students were engaged in the study of heredity and genetics. Through the course of their studies, they encountered some of the genetic disorders that exist and affect many people. Working in teams, students embarked upon an in depth research project where they gathered information about a particular genetic disorder or disease. Some of the conditions researched included; Neurofibromatosis, Diabetes, Down Syndrome, Follicular Lymphoma, and Sickle Cell Anemia. Once all of the information was obtained, students organized Power Point presentations to communicate their findings with our school community. This year, we were honored to have several members of the community share their knowledge with us. Mrs. Judy Bellina from the ARC of Essex in Newark, joined us and addressed the community about Down Syndrome and further educated us about some of the services that are provided to individuals affected by this disorder. In addition, students had the opportunity to listen to the sister of a fellow classmate, as she spoke about living with diabetes. Another student, was joined by his mother during his presentation, and the duo shared information about a condition that was close to heart for both of them.

The Expo provided a wonderful platform for students to share their work with other students, parents, teachers, and other members of our community. It was an experience that enabled the students to develop their critical thinking skills, oral presentation skills, and most importantly, it was an opportunity for students to uphold the core value of empathy in a new light. Many presentations included video documentaries of individuals afflicted with the disorders and it was remarkable to observe the respect and admiration our students felt for them. The students would like to thank all of their teachers and parents for their support, as well as Mrs. Thomas for allowing them to arrive to school professionally dressed and giving them the opportunity to showcase their findings. It was an incredible learning opportunity and an experience that will remain with them for a long time.



Science Fair and Math Exhibition by Ms Cenac, Ms Kalenak, Mrs. Torres

We are very excited to announce that we will be having our 1st Annual Science Fair at Pride Academy this year! Each student in grades 5-8 is **required** to participate in this important and valuable learning experience. Hands-on scientific investigations are the focus at our fair this year. Students will work in teams of no more than 4 students. They will have the opportunity to experience the joy of discovery, as they pick their own science project question, ranging from the branches of physics to biology. Over the course of the year, students have learned to use the scientific method to investigate the world around them. They learned how to question, develop hypotheses (predictions), and then plan and conduct experiments. They also gathered and organized information, compared data and made conclusions based on their results. During the month of May, students will conduct their investigations and organize their information so that they will be ready to share with the community at the upcoming fair. Mrs. Del Rio and Ms. Cenac will provide students with in class support and check in with them regularly to monitor their progress.

The math fair and exhibition will be an opportunity for the students to showcase the math they have been studying throughout the year. Ms Kalenak has assigned students an experiment or research project focused on one of the New Jersey State standards. Students will choose a focus area of interest and develop a presentation to share with the community. The project will give each student an opportunity to take one concept and discover the history, real world uses, and potential usefulness in career choices that relate to the concept. Mrs. Torres will lead her students in a performance exhibition of selected projects based on special skills and strategies that they have been learning this year. Parent workshops will be held and led by Mrs. Torres, Mr. Powell, and students. Parents will get an opportunity to learn a math strategy and take-away some activities and ideas for summer math enrichment. We would like to thank all the parents for their support and we look forward to another incredible learning experience from our Pride Scholars. We hope to see you there!

Dates and Times: Grades 5 and 6: June 2, 2010 at 5:30pm Grades 7 and 8: June 3, 2010 at 5:30pm