

2022 - 2023 | February 15, 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Presidents' Day - Teacher In-Service - No School for Students**
  - Monday, February 20th
- **Learn Through Play! - Family Engagement Event**
  - Thursday, February 23rd
- **Scholastic Book Fair**
  - Monday, February 27th - Friday, March 3rd
- **End of 2nd Trimester**
  - Thursday, March 9th
- **Teacher In-Service Day - No School for Students**
  - Friday, March 10th
- **ADHD: What it is & How to Help - Family Engagement Event**
  - Thursday, March 16th

Conquering **Dyslexia**.  
Powering **Potential**.

### PCS - A School Community for Dyslexia

The beginning of February marks the beginning of **Open Enrollment** at PCS. Throughout this flyer you will find evidence of our commitment to our mission; **to serve students and families who are affected by DYSLEXIA, and to help students with DYSLEXIA reach their full potential**. As an educator, parent, and advocate for children, I do believe that **ALL** children should receive an education that helps them reach their full potential, however, the programming at PCS is designed specifically for students with language-based learning challenges such as dyslexia. You will read below how our investment in Structured Language Instruction, led by Dr. Mindy Bramer, has enabled PCS to achieve **Wilson Accredited Training Partner Status**. This type of instruction is truly necessary for students who struggle with dyslexia. The co-existence of dyslexia and ADHD is extremely high and we will continue to sponsor **events like Dr. Cheryl Chase** who can help us all assist students to develop strategies to be successful despite the presence of dyslexia and ADHD. At PCS, students learn how to use technology to **reduce the impact of reading and writing deficits**; whether it is the use of speech-to-text to bypass writing



difficulties or the use of digital text readers that allow students to access material above their independent reading level; we help students understand how to use these tools so that they are not hindered by a dyslexic condition. Please read more below about [Bookshare](#) if you are not familiar with this resource. These are only just a few examples of how we fulfill [our mission](#) to serve families impacted by [dyslexia](#).

As we have grown, I am thankful for the recommendations that you, as our [PCS Community](#), share with your friends, family, and neighbors, but I would ask that you remember [our mission](#) when you suggest PCS as an option; and how we are uniquely designed for students with [dyslexia](#)!

We are quickly approaching another marker in time - three years removed from March 2020. It is my hope that we can continue to [grow as a school community](#) post-pandemic. I would like to encourage you to join us for *at least one* [Family Engagement event](#) this winter/spring. I have been talking with parents and family members through the Parent Group meetings, Wellness, and School Climate Committees and there has been [feedback](#) that a balance of more social, along with information sessions, is desired.

In the spirit of that feedback, I would like to invite you for [dessert and coffee](#) prior to the Cheryl Chase/ADHD event on March 16th, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will meet in our cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. I make a pretty good [Thin Mint Cheesecake](#), among some others, and I look forward to meeting some of you with whom I have not yet had the pleasure. I will share some very brief information about the Federal Funds we receive each year and I am interested in your input regarding the use of those funds for students at PCS. If not March 16th, I hope to see you at another one of our [events](#) this spring!

-Mrs. Maria Paluselli, CEO

CHILD WITH  
**DYSLEXIA?**

[ProvidentCharterSchool.org](#)

**ENROLLING NOW!**



**PROVIDENT**  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
positivity. possibility. provident.

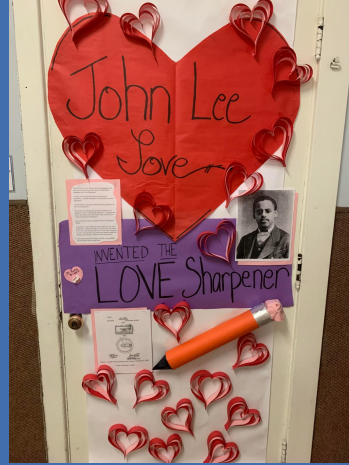
## PRINCIPALS' POST

### Happy February, PCS Families!

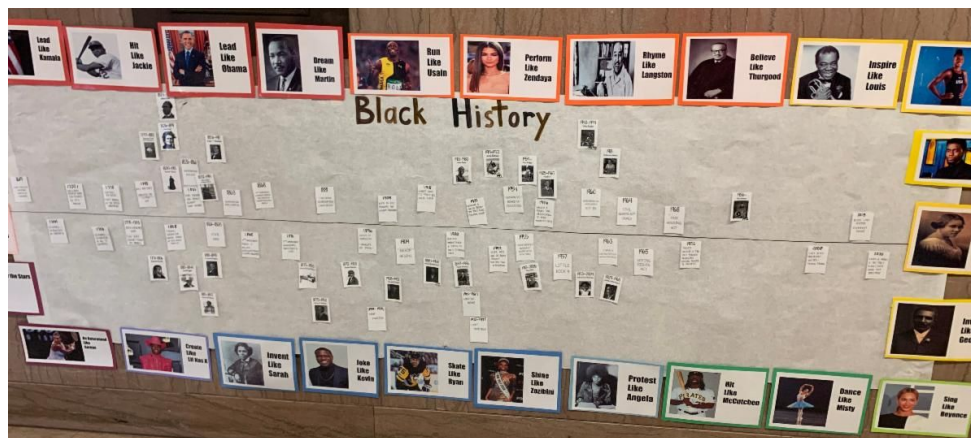
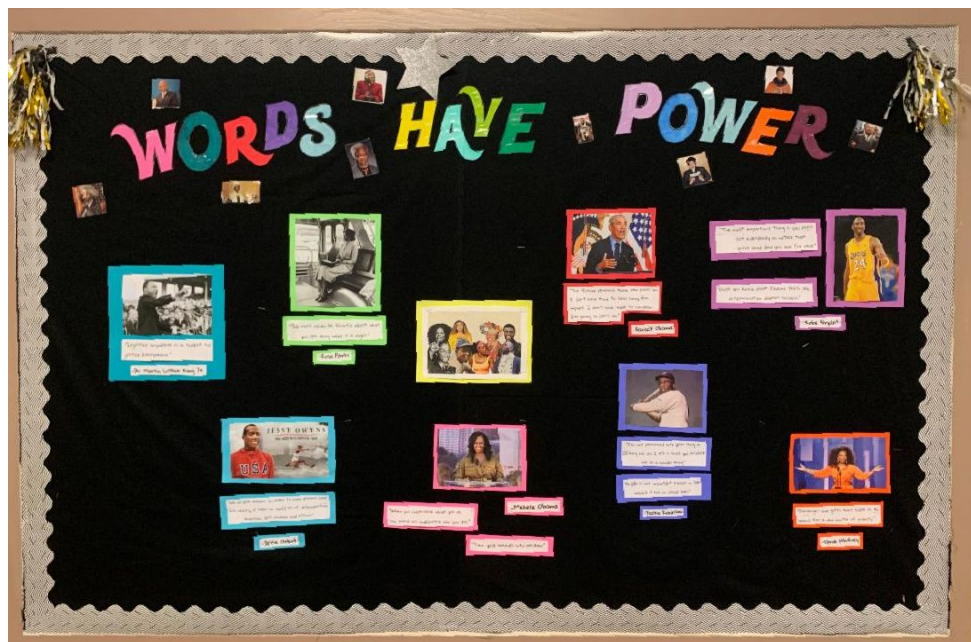
Wow! We cannot believe we are already halfway through February! Time flies when you are having fun! First and foremost, we are thankful for all who attended our **Family-Teacher Conferences!** Raising humans truly takes a village and staying connected between school and home is a vital part of ensuring their success. We are also excited to announce that our 6th-grade science teacher, Ms. Hlavsá, received a



grant for **Take-Home Coding Kits** for students to take home and discover on their own! Additionally, our students started celebrating **Black History Month** in a variety of unique ways, including our annual **door decorating contest** - this time with a theme to celebrate Black Innovators! We are also excited for another Literary Luncheon - this time with a **Harlem Renaissance** theme where our cafeteria will be transformed into a Jazz Cafe. Although the majority of the cafeteria will be decorated with student work, we are seeking **donations of brass instruments** and any books that cover the **Harlem Renaissance** to help with the transformation. Please send any donations to the front office with a note that says "cafe." Next month's family flyer will include more examples of the authentic learning experiences and engaging activities our students participated in during Black History Month.



-Mrs. Connie Joseph, Building Principal  
-Mrs. Kristy Yonushonis, Assistant Principal  
-Mr. Jason Kerr, Dean of Students



## Updates to our Recess Space!

PCS is ecstatic about teaming up with the Occupational Therapy program students at the [University of Pittsburgh](#) this semester as they will be making

some exciting updates to our blacktop recess area. Please see their message below and [please consider donating](#) to this project!

As occupational therapy students at Pitt, we have been collaborating with Provident Charter School to improve students' recess. **Recess is a vital component** for skill development inside and outside of the classroom environment. Please consider [donating to The Recess Program](#) to help promote participation in play and facilitate classroom learning at Provident!

-MaryKate Otchy, Holly Pravlik, Katie Valases, Samara Sibblies, Maddie Glew,  
Doctor of Occupational Therapy Students

The Recess Program - Donate Here!

## PCS FOUNDATION ACCREDITATION

### Provident Charter School Foundation Becomes a Wilson® Accredited Training Partner

We are excited to announce that Provident Charter School Foundation has received Wilson® Accredited Training Partner status from Wilson Language Training®! The designation will allow the foundation to [expand its services to train and certify educators](#) in the Wilson Reading System® (WRS), a nationally recognized multisensory structured literacy program widely used to [support students with dyslexia](#) and other language-based learning disabilities.

As an accredited training partner, the Provident Charter School Foundation is now licensed by Wilson to [provide professional learning](#), including courses and certifications, to school districts and teachers in the highly regarded Wilson Reading System® (WRS) program. This designation affirms that the Foundation meets Wilson's [standards for excellence](#) in the delivery of its professional learning programs and adheres to ethical business practices when managing those services.



*"Our [journey](#) to become a Wilson® Accredited Partner school has been very rewarding because this partnership allows us to [prepare many teachers to effectively help](#) struggling students become fluent, independent readers."*

- **Dr. Mindy Bramer, Director of Professional Development, PCS**



PROVIDENT  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
- FOUNDATION -



WILSON®  
Accredited  
Partner

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

### Learn Through Play!

Parents and caregivers,

Please join us for an engaging session on utilizing tools and strategies to [improve](#)





language development and **numeracy skills** at home. This session will be taught within the context of play and daily routines. Specific, enjoyable, read-at-home texts that foster phonemic awareness and language development will be shared and provided for participants to take home along with **games** and **activities** that foster number sense.

**Thursday, February 23rd @ 6:00-7:30**  
 Location: Provident Charter School  
 Presenter: Ms. Devon DeJesus

[Learn Through Play Registration Form](#)

## ADHD: What it is & How to Help in the Classroom

ADHD is a **neurological** condition characterized by inattention, distractibility, hyperactivity, and/or impulsivity. According to the CDC, about 6.1 million children have been diagnosed with the condition. Due to the nature of this disorder, students with ADHD are likely to struggle with the **day-to-day expectations of school**, even if they are intelligent and motivated. Tasks such as accurately copying off the board or packing their backpacks for school can be challenging. Parents of these children often look to teachers for help and guidance. This talk will describe what ADHD is and the ways in which it can impact performance in school, and provide **guidelines** and **concrete strategies** that educators and families can use to help support students with ADHD.

**Thursday, March 16th @ 6:30-8:00 pm**  
 Location: Virtual & In-Person  
 Presenter: Dr. Cheryl Chase

[ADHD in the Classroom Registration Form](#)

**ADHD:**  
WHAT IT IS & HOW TO HELP  
IN THE CLASSROOM

**About the Event**  
 ADHD is a neurological condition characterized by inattention, distractibility, hyperactivity, and/or impulsivity. According to the CDC, about 6.1 million children have been diagnosed with the condition. Due to the nature of this disorder, students with ADHD are likely to struggle with the day-to-day expectations of school, even if they are intelligent and motivated. Tasks such as accurately copying off the board or packing their backpacks for home can be challenging. Parents of these children, look to teachers for help and guidance. This talk will describe what ADHD is and the ways in which it can impact performance in school, and provide guidelines and concrete strategies that educators and families can use to help support students with ADHD.

**About Dr. Cheryl Chase**  
 Cheryl Chase, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Independence, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. She specializes in the diagnostic and neuropsychological assessment of various conditions impacting children, adolescents, and young adults including ADHD, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Learning Disorders, and emotional concerns.

**THURSDAY**  
 3.16.2023  
 Virtual & In-Person  
 6:30 pm-8:00 pm  
 1400 Troy Hill Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL**

**REGISTER HERE**

[www.providentcharter.org/ADHD](#)

## CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

### New Curriculum Piloted for Mathematics in Grades 2-8

Provident Charter School is **deeply committed** to providing our students with the necessary remediation of foundational skills coupled with a **rigorous and relevant instructional program** that fully prepares each of them for high school and beyond. In our effort to continue to build and develop partnerships with families, we feel that it is essential to share with you upcoming changes regarding our curriculum. It has been five years since we adopted Ready Mathematics as our Tier 1 math curriculum across all grades. While Ready Mathematics has provided deep opportunities to engage our students in rich mathematics language and discourse, our schoolwide data has consistently indicated gaps in student knowledge in key concepts such as number sense, operational fluency, proportional relationships, and problem-solving. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the **Curriculum Department** in conjunction with

Provident Charter School's math teachers identified **nine criteria** for evaluating potential instructional programs to replace Ready Mathematics including:



- Efficient use of **instructional minutes**
- **Student-friendly** materials
- Alignment with **PA Standards**
- Integrated number sense activities
- **Multisensory** approaches
- Authentic **real-world application** through problem-solving
- Systematic **spiral review** of concepts
- Opportunities for **differentiation** and **remediation**
- Resources for **families**

Throughout the remainder of the year, the **Curriculum Department** utilized these criteria to evaluate several different instructional programs that had achieved the highest rating on Ed Reports, a non-partisan, independent non-profit that provides quality ratings on curricula. After careful consideration and with consultation from math teachers at Provident Charter School, the Curriculum Department has chosen to move forward with pilots of Eureka Math® in grades 2-5 and Illustrative Math® in grades 6-8. Over the past few months, each of our math teachers has received over **8 hours in professional development** focused on the implementation of these new instructional programs. Depending on the grade level, students will participate in our program pilots at different times throughout the remainder of this school year. We are confident that these programs will help us to close gaps in student knowledge and prepare them to be college and career ready. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

-Ms. Shannon Iachini, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

---

## Bookshare Individual Accounts for Students

### What is Bookshare®?

Bookshare® is an ebook library that holds more than 1.7 million titles!

### Who can have access to Bookshare®?

Students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504s that indicate the student has barriers to accessing printed text receive in-school access to Bookshare®.



### How can families access Bookshare®?

All students at Provident Charter School that meet the qualifying criteria have organizational memberships. Families have the ability to create an individual membership that is linked with the organizational membership so that students can add additional books that they would like to read or listen to. When students are promoted in eighth grade or transition to their school of choice earlier, organizational memberships are terminated.

### How can my child obtain an individual membership?

In the last few weeks, emails and hard copy letters were shared with the families of all our qualifying students that contained active links to create individual memberships. If your student meets the qualifying criteria and you didn't receive an email or hard copy letter, please reach out to

**Linking Organizational and Individual Memberships:**

It is important for both memberships to be connected. Follow the live links in the email or letter to link the memberships. Once an individual membership is created, please provide your child's classroom teacher or case manager with their new login credentials. This is how they will continue to access Bookshare® at school.



**PROVIDENT**  
CHARTER SCHOOL



1400 Troy Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA

15212

412-709-5160

[www.providentcharterschool.org](http://www.providentcharterschool.org)



Provident Charter School | 1400 Troy Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

[Unsubscribe abilitski@providentcharterschool.org](mailto:abilitski@providentcharterschool.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [abilitski@providentcharterschool.org](mailto:abilitski@providentcharterschool.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!