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OF THE PACK

INITIATING NEWBIES INTO THE PUMA PRIDE

ON AUGUST 10TH, 68 LEADERS met to train for the upcoming PRIDE Day. PRIDE Sponsor, Mrs. Kendy Blake, has held the annual trainings since its inception in 2005. "Our PRIDE Leaders had a shortened training focused on the most important parts of the program. You couldn't tell. They jumped right in, showed creativity and flexibility, got to know their sixth graders, and started building relationships right away," Blake said. "And the sixth graders were connected to the energy. They were engaging with the PRIDE Leaders, laughing, and learning about each other. It was a great day in the midst of an unusual year."



THE SOONER THE BETTER



JUST GETTING STARTED AS MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

1. DIVIDED INTO SMALLER GROUPS. Conall Humphries and Jolie Krieger, O6, sit with other members of their CORE Plus class on the new track during PRIDE. Students played "Bibbidi-Bobbidi" and other team building exercises. "It was really fun and overall interesting to meet the eighth graders before school started," Krieger said. *photo by k. blake*

2. MENTORED, Emerson Sisler and Trenton Smith, O6, work in their group with PRIDE Leaders, Chloe Hebert and Gabrielle Roche, O8. "I liked playing games, and it was funny when we would mess up," Sisler said. *photo by k. blake*

014 BETTER FOR IT.

4. LEADING HER PRIDE GROUP, Olivia Leeder, O8, provides the incoming sixth graders, Lovella Cohan and Landon Nanley, O6, with important information about the school. "When I was nominated for PRIDE it felt good because I knew that not many people were nominated for it," Leeder said. "The highlight of PRIDE Day was getting to see all the incoming sixth graders and them asking me questions. I got to be a good role model. It also reminded me of when I was in sixth grade on PRIDE Day." *photo by k. blake*



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Job # 12449 School Powell Middle School

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Even Page

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1. 1. PLAYING TIGERS, TRAPS AND BEARS,

PRIDE DAY, 2. AFTER A LONG DAY OF TEACHING ON



3. **PLAYING A TEAM BONDING GAME**, Kaiden Lopez, Cooper Matney and Anthony-Francois Maillard, 06, become fast friends on PRIDE Day. "I thought I wouldn't know anyone, but I'm glad I got to know my peers better," Maillard said. The bonding games helped Matney get to know his peers as well. "It was easy to meet people. It made going to school the first day easier," Matney said. *photo by k. blake*

ON WITH

PRIDE DAY
CONTINUES
WITH SEVERAL
MODIFICATIONS
DUE TO SAFETY
PROTOCOLS

Stella Counter, 08, provides guidance, while Benjamin Behan, 06, learns the ropes. *photos by k. blake*

NO SCHOOL YEAR WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT PRIDE DAY. The annual event took place, yet with creative modifications.

"We worked hard to create a PRIDE experience that still focused on this goal. However, because of COVID protocols, we changed the format of the Activity Day in August by dividing the sixth graders into smaller groups made up of three sixth grade CORE Plus classes. The smaller groups came separately and this allowed us to socially distance within the individual groups and also between the PRIDE groups," PRIDE Sponsor Kendy Blake said.

Instead of touring the building and assisting sixth graders with their lockers, the PRIDE Leaders provided guidance in alternative ways.

"Because the incoming sixth graders could not tour the school before coming on the first day, the PRIDE Leaders created a video tour and neon green signs were hung around the school to help them find their classes," Blake said. "The PRIDE Leaders also created a video showing organizational strategies for school supplies and backpacks for in-person learning days and a video with strategies for the sixth graders to use on distance learning days."

PRIDE DAY **BE** BELIEVE IN PUMA PRIDE 015

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