



RPCS January 2025

NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year and Welcome Back Families!

As we embrace 2025, let us be thankful for the successful completion of our first semester. We have quite a bit to look forward to in the second half of the school year. During this month, our students are invited to participate in the annual “What Kwanzaa Means to Me” Essay Contest. Furthermore, the testing window for NWEA MAP Growth Assessment will commence. Testing dates to be determined. January has great things in store for our Watoto!

As we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Johnie Wilson, and Michelle Obama this month, let us remember the importance of service and volunteerism. Pick a cause to serve or a project to volunteer your time and effort. Always remember the words of Dr. King, *“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”*

~ Baba Tyshawn

IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE REMINDER

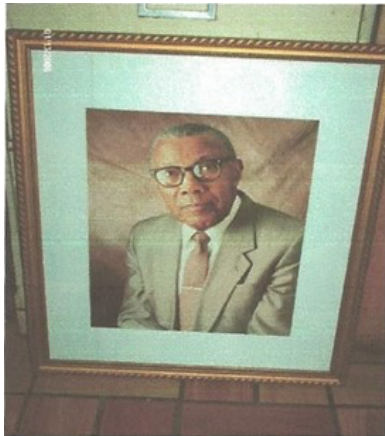
All Universal Health Certificates, Immunization Exemptions, and Oral Assessments should be received at this point. Any outstanding students (target grades: PK3, PK4, and KG) will be temporarily excluded from classroom instruction until further notice. Final compliance letters will be distributed to parents as soon as possible. Please ensure all documentation is received in a timely manner.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This month, we will commemorate the birth and lifetime work of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** At Roots, this is always celebrated in grand fashion. On Friday, January 12, we will spend the day hearing his speeches, watching videos about his life, singing freedom songs, and participating in a mock "sit-in" and freedom march. King was born on January 15, 1929, and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. 's birthday is a nationwide holiday, celebrated Monday, January 15, 2024.



"The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice."



We celebrate the birthday of our beloved ancestor, **Mr. Johnie D. Wilson**, born on January 3, 1919, and transitioned on January 4, 2006. He was a community leader, activist, and Roots' neighbor. Mr. Wilson served on the Roots ALC Council of Elders and was a founding member of the Roots PCS Board of Trustees. Since 1990 until his transition, he continued to be a faithful Roots benefactor.

We also celebrate the birthday of our present-day shero, former First Lady **Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama**. She was born on January 17, 1964, in Chicago, IL. She serves as a lawyer, writer, and the wife of the 44th President, Barack Obama. She is the first African American First Lady of the United States. Through her four main initiatives, she has become a prominent role model for women. She is an advocate for healthy families, service members and their families, higher education, and international adolescent girls' education.



"When they go low, we go high."



OUR ROOTS BIRTHDAYS

Meheretab Anteneh – 1/5
Noliwe Tehuti-Edwards – 1/8
Nuri Tehuti-Edwards – 1/8
King Ndagha – 1/10
Akasha Harshaw – 1/11
Lenny Webb, Jr. – 1/17
Aurora Wallace-Jones – 1/21
Baba Tyshawn Chisholm – 1/24
Aidan Davis – 1/29
Kyler Lawson – 1/30

The Birthday Party will be held on Friday, January 31 at 3:30pm!

HABARI GANI?!

“What’s the News?”

All students must arrive at school for field trips by 8:30am. If your child arrives after 9:00am, when the bus leaves, there is **NO** acceptance of the child for that day. Children cannot be left in the office or brought on the trip after the class leaves school. *Parents are not permitted to drive separately; all parents and students must ride on the bus with the school.*

- For the month of January – NWEA MAP Growth Assessment for grades K-5 will commence. Testing dates to be determined!
- On Friday, January 4, 2025 – Grades KG-5 will attend a **Science presentation on “Weather” with Baba Darryl** in the Multipurpose Room.
- On Friday, January 17, 2025 – Deadline for the Kwanzaa Essay Contest; winners will be announced on Tuesday, January 21st; prizes will be presented on Thursday, February 6th.
- On Monday, January 13, 2025 – Roots will host its first Open House from 10am-12pm. We look forward to meeting all prospective families for the SY 2025-26.
- On Monday, January 20, 2025 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday)
- On Wednesday, January 22, 2025 – **Half School Day** (Early Dismissal at 1pm)
- On Friday, January 24, 2025 – Schoolwide Field Trip (location TBD, may be subject to change)

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

Please be advised that Roots PCS will follow **DC Public Charter School's Guidelines** for delays and closings. In the event of inclement weather, you may also check the news to confirm school delays and closings in real time.

CULTURAL PRIDE FRIDAYS

EVERY FRIDAY students have the option of wearing their school uniform or African Pride attire/positive African images or culturally empowering messages.

NOTE: On Field Trip Fridays, students are required to wear the Roots uniform shirt.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Roots PCS is working diligently to build our social media presence. Follow us on all platforms and feel free to spread the word.

Have any suggestions to improve our programming? Please stop by the front office to drop your thoughts in the suggestion box. We appreciate your unwavering support!



@ROOTSPCS (Twitter)



@ROOTSPUBLICCHARTERSCHOOL (Instagram)



@ROOTSPCS (TikTok)

Your feedback is very important to us.
Please scan the QR code below to
provide your feedback monthly!





PAC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAC meetings are scheduled on the last Thursday of each month. The next **PAC Meeting** will be held in-person on Thursday, January 30 at 6:30pm. We will discuss upcoming events, questions, concerns, and ideas you may have in mind.

All committee chairpersons are required to attend the meetings and all parents are encouraged to volunteer on **PAC** committees. Offer your skills; let us know your plans to help the school.

NOTE: On-site childcare will not be provided. Light refreshments will be served!

A Special Thanks To:

- All sponsors who contributed donations of any kind to Roots PCS. We truly appreciate it!
- Our student ambassadors for participating in the Imani Day Kwanzaa Celebration held on January 1, 2025.
 - Reyna DeBruhl (5th), Sandra Teke (5th), Carter Jackson (4th), Amarli O'Conner (5th), Malachi Oji (5th), Naunet Tehuti-Edwards (4th)
- All families who gave Kwanzaa gifts to the students and staff in December.
- Mama Aszurtoine Gunter-Fields for pizza donation for the students.
- Baba Mark Wheatle for pizza donation for the students.
- Professional NFL Player, Marcus Smith and his team, for their donation of toys for all students.

