



# RPCS October 2024

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## NEWSLETTER



Autumn has arrived and the harvest season is here. Happy Fall everyone!

Fall is a wonderful time of year, characterized by colorful leaves, cooler temperatures, and a rich tapestry of cultural traditions. We will engage the children in various activities that highlight the beauty of this season, including nature walks to observe the changing leaves, crafts using natural materials, and discussions about harvest and gratitude. In addition, we will be incorporating stories and lessons that celebrate the diversity of Fall festivities, such as going to the Pumpkin Patch, and the significance of the harvest in different cultures. Our goal is to create a rich learning environment that encourages curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.

We encourage you to join in the fun at home by exploring the outdoors with your child, sharing family traditions, or even trying your hand at some Fall-themed recipes together. Your involvement is a key part of our community, and we value the partnership we have in your child's education. Starting this month, the students will participate in DC Hand Dancing and African Dancing/Drumming on a weekly basis. These classes will be offered from October – June.

We thank our families and stakeholders for your partnership and belief in the success of Roots PCS. Asante Sana!

~Baba Tyshawn

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## ENROLLMENT AUDIT REMINDER

**Roots PCS Enrollment Audit Day** is scheduled for **Monday, October 7, 2024**. Please be advised that according to the policy in the District, **ALL** students enrolled in *Roots Public Charter School* **MUST** be up to date on their proof of residency documents prior to audit day. In addition, all students enrolled in Roots PCS **MUST** be up to date on their routine pediatric immunizations and oral assessments prior to the final deadline on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This month we will commemorate the birthday of our historic role model, **Fannie Lou Hamer**. She was born on October 6, 1917, in the Mississippi Delta and died in 1977. She was a courageous Black woman who struggled to change the injustices of life in the South. She was instrumental in organizing voting rights and cooperative farms in Mississippi.



Let's celebrate our present-day role model, **Jesse Louis Jackson**. He was born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina. Rev. Jackson was very instrumental in fighting against racial injustice throughout the 1960's. Active in every phase of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he established **People United to Serve Humanity (PUSH)** and directed "Operation Breadbasket". In the 1988 presidential election, he served as a source of pride for Black People everywhere; he was the most conscientious Democratic candidate for President until the election of the First Black President 20 years later.

We will also celebrate our present-day hero, **Dr. Mae C. Jamison**. She was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur Alabama and grew up in Chicago. At the age of 16, on a National Merit Scholarship, she entered Stanford University, graduating with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and a B.A. degree in African American Studies. In 1981, she earned a MD degree from Cornell Medical College. Dr. Jemison became a NASA astronaut in 1987; she became the first woman of color to travel to space, aboard the space shuttle "Endeavor" in 1992. She is presently *Professor-at-Large* at Cornell University.





## OUR ROOTS BIRTHDAYS

Remi Cabbell – 10/13  
Autumn-Rose Wilson – 10/17  
Mama Roseanna Nwaogu – 10/19  
Blair Whittaker – 10/25  
Donavan Carrington – 10/25

**The Birthday Party will be held on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm!**

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## **HABARI GANI?!**

*“What’s the News?”*

All students must be 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. Students are not to bring money on field trips.

- On Thursday, October 3, 2024 – Owner of Ben’s Chili Bowl will speak with grades K-5 about this well-known landmark and its success for many years. The assembly will begin at 2:00pm-2:30pm.
- On Friday, October 4, 2024 – Grades K-5 will attend a “*Chemistry*” presentation with Baba Darryl in their classroom cohorts.
- On Thursday, October 10, 2024 – Grades PreK3-4 will attend the Pumpkin Patch at Butler’s Orchard in Germantown, MD. The price for chaperones is \$8.00 per adult. The bus will be leaving at 9:00am. Parents are required to ride on the bus with the children!
- On Friday, October 11, 2024 – Grades K-5 will attend the Pumpkin Patch at Butler’s Orchard in Germantown, MD. The price for chaperones is \$8.00 per adult. The bus will be leaving at 9:00am. Parents are required to ride on the bus with the children!
- On Monday, October 14, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Indigenous Peoples’ Day)
- On Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – Half school day, early dismissal at 1:00pm.  
**\*TENTATIVE\***
- On Friday, October 25, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Professional Development Day)
- On Friday, October 25, 2024 – Roots PCS will celebrate the life of our dear Mama Gilda, Esq. in the Multipurpose Room at 6:00pm.
- On Thursday, October 31, 2024 – **Children’s Autumn Masquerade Ball**, 6pm-9pm
  - *This year’s theme to be announced!*
- Roots PCS is still participating in the **School Store Fundraiser** kicked off in September. This fundraiser allows students and teachers to win various prizes and classroom supplies. We encourage all parents to participate and share with friends and family to build points!

**SchoolStore**

# ROOTS POSITION ON “HALLOWEEN”

We submit, Halloween is an outdated holiday. Many years have passed since Halloween was alive, fun, and shared by children and adults. In recent years most adults ignore “trick or treaters” and some even use this time to poison and hurt them. Many cities totally ban night-time Halloween activities. As a matter of fact, the commercial industry is the only entity that consistently advocates and benefits from Halloween.

At Roots, we know that Halloween never had any significance regarding the plight of Black people. It only perpetuated racism by depicting black as negative, bad luck, ugly, and evil.

Since the pumpkin is the only positive symbol of Halloween, we allow the students to make “Jack - O - Lanterns” and roast pumpkin seeds. We also teach the students Pumpkin concepts such as:

1. A pumpkin is a vegetable (the fruit of the pumpkin plant).
2. A pumpkin grows on a vine.
3. A pumpkin is orange, hard, round, smooth, and gourd.

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## AUTUMN MASQUERADE BALL



Roots’ Annual African-centered **Autumn Masquerade Ball** will be held on **Thursday, October 31** from **6pm-9pm** (15 Kennedy Street, NW). Join us for a fun-filled cultural costume party for the whole family. There will be food, games, prizes, and more. This year’s theme to be announced!

***No ghost, goblins, witches, or other “Halloween” costumes.*** Further details regarding parent volunteers and tickets will be announced!

# DONATIONS NEEDED FOR COHORTS

This month, we are requesting donations to help fill goodie bags for the **Autumn Masquerade Ball**. We are asking parents to please donate the following items no later than Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Baba Sadiki's class – Water bottles (8 oz. mini size)
- Mama Betty's class – Smores Ingredients
- Mama Michelle's class – Juice boxes and glow-in-the-dark toys
- Mama Khadija's class – Small bags of chips
- Mama JoAnne's class – Candy assortment (suitable for small children)
- Mama Ayo's class – Small goodie bags
- Mama Alethea's class – Individually-wrapped treats

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## CULTURAL PRIDE FRIDAYS

**EVERY FRIDAY** students have the option of wearing their school uniform or African Pride attire/positive African images such as a freedom fighter or culturally empowering messages.

On the **LAST FRIDAY** of each month (October 25<sup>th</sup>), the students have a chance to help their class win a pizza party. The class with the most students dressed in **AFRICAN GARB** wins!

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

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## UNIFORM POLICY

ALL Roots Public Charter School students are expected to arrive at school *daily*, wearing the school uniform — NO EXCEPTIONS! Parents will be called to pick up their children who are not in uniform. Uniforms may be purchased at [www.rpcsuniforms.com](http://www.rpcsuniforms.com).

Students must adhere to the following uniform policy: **Roots uniform shirt, black bottoms, black closed-toe shoes**. NO CROCS ALLOWED FOR SAFETY PURPOSES!



## PAC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAC meetings are scheduled on the last Thursday of each month. The next **PAC Meeting** will be held on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. This meeting will serve as a follow-up discussion on upcoming events, questions, concerns, and any 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 improve the school.

The annual PAC membership fee is \$65.00 (per family). Payments can be made through CashApp at \$pacroots (scan QR code shown below).

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



Roots PAC  
Scan to pay \$pacroots

### A Special Thanks To:

- All parents who volunteered to chaperone at the Bill Pickett Rodeo.
- All parents who supported the very first PAC dinner social.
- All parents who donated gently used uniforms and African garb.
- Mama Arkilah Womack for donation of snacks for the students.
- Baba Mark Wheatle for donation of pizza for Cohort 3.
- Mama Chika Oji for donation of snacks for the students.
- Mama Donzella Hartwill for donation of extra school supplies for Pre-primary.
- The brothers of Omicron Lambda Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha for donation of school supplies and backpacks for the students. Thank you, Baba Kelly Gilmore!