



RPCS September 2024

NEWSLETTER



Greetings and welcome back to another successful year! I am honored to serve as the new principal, and I am grateful to have been chosen for the position and offered this esteemed opportunity to serve as the leader of Roots PCS. I thank you, parents and caregivers, for your trust and belief in the mission and vision of Roots PCS. I am dedicated to the academic success of every child, and I look forward to building a strong community together. The legacy will live on!

I would like to welcome our new 4th/5th grade teacher, Baba Sadiki Hall to the Roots community. In addition, I am happy to report the transition of Mama Michelle as the new Kindergarten teacher as well as Mama Betty as the new 2nd/3rd grade teacher. I thank you for your service and commitment to the continued success of Roots PCS. Lastly, I extend gratitude to all the staff and parents for your support and encouragement as we work together to grow, learn, and continue the legacy that is Roots Public Charter School. It truly takes a village!

~Baba Tyshawn Chisholm

KARIBU Watoto! Welcome Back Students!

Roots Public Charter School extends a warm **Welcome** to the parents of our returning students. We especially want to **Welcome** all our new parents and students. **THIS YEAR WILL BE THE BEST YET!**

We will formulate our in-house *Parent Directory*. It is very beneficial for all parents to have the current e-mail addresses, home and work phone numbers of our *Roots'* families. If you prefer *not* having your number listed, please inform your child's teacher of an alternate number to be listed should you be contacted by other parents.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This month we will commemorate the birthday of our historic role **Kwame Nkrumah**. Though the actual date he was born is not known, we commemorate his birth on September 21, 1909. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was the first Prime Minister of Ghana, which was the first African country to win independence from colonial rule.



We will also honor our present-day role model, **Ruby Bridges**, born September 8, 1954, in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1960 at six years of age, she was one of the first black children to force integration of an all-white public elementary school in the South. The first three weeks, she was escorted by Federal Marshals and was the *only* child in her class. Presently, Ruby Bridges Hall resides in New Orleans, La. In the effort “**to increase Parental Involvement in Education.**” She founded *The Ruby Bridges Foundation*.

DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDER

The school day starts at 8:00am each day. Breakfast is served between 8:00am-8:30am. We strongly encourage students to arrive at school no later than 8:30am to participate in the morning circle. Keep in mind that morning circle sets the tone for each day; please adhere to this drop off policy.

If you already completed an interest form for before care, please drop off students by 7:00am and remember to sign-in. Students will be marked as tardy after 9:00am. If your child arrives late to school, please provide a formal notice to support the late arrival; otherwise, students will be marked as unexcused tardy in our system. After 12:00pm, we advise parents to keep their child at home for the day.

The school day concludes at 4:00pm each day. If you already completed an interest form for after care, please pick up students by 6:00pm SHARP. Late pickups will be fined \$10 per minute after 6:00pm. Please remember to sign-in for before and after care!

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.rootsacademyuniforms.com. Until your uniform arrives, your child may wear a red polo, black bottoms, and black closed-toe shoes for the first few weeks of school.

ENROLLMENT AUDIT DAY 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 at Roots PCS must be up to date on their routine pediatric immunization and oral assessment prior to the final deadline on Friday, October 25. District law and regulations require all schools to ensure students are fully immunized to attend school. We know that childhood immunizations are critical to keeping our community safe. Now is the time for families to schedule an annual wellness visit with your child's doctor or attend a neighborhood or school-based vaccine clinic. For more information regarding the new policy and District requirements, please navigate to: <https://osse.dc.gov/immunization>.

DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS (EVERY FRIDAY)

As of this Friday, September 13, students have the option of wearing their school uniform or dress down every Friday thereafter. This incentive is contingent on 100% students in uniform all week (Mon-Thurs). **NOTE: On Field Trip Fridays, students are required to wear their Roots uniform shirt.**

UPCOMING PTA MEETING

The first PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00pm. Please expect to meet at the Kennedy Street NW location. Parents will have an opportunity to meet and greet our new principal as well as the teachers.

Reminder: Attendance is required for at least one parent per household. *Childcare is not provided.*



OUR ROOTS BIRTHDAYS:

Mama Michelle Abney 9/1

Naomi Waters 9/2

Simon Nwankwo 9/11

Ace Jackson 9/20

The Birthday Party will be held on Friday, September 27th at 3:30pm!

HABARI GANI?!

"What's the News?"

Important Announcements

All students must be at school for field trips by 8:30am. If your child arrives after 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 permitted to bring money on field trips unless parents are notified in writing, newsletter, or the RPCS website.*

- On Friday, September 6, 2024 – Grades K-5 will attend an **"Earth Science" presentation with Dr. Boyd** in the Multipurpose Room.
- On Thursday, September 12, 2024 – **First PTA Meeting and Meet & Greet Our New Principal** will take place at Roots PCS-Kennedy Street location from 6pm-8pm. All parents are encouraged to attend!
- On Friday, September 20, 2024 – Pre-Primary and K-5 students will visit the **Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo** at The Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD from 10:00am-12:00pm to celebrate the history and culture of black cowboys/girls and rodeos.
- On Thursday, September 26th –First PAC Meeting, led by our new PAC President, Mama Lynette Wilson. All Chairpersons must attend. Be prepared to discuss expectations, committee responsibilities, and upcoming PAC-sponsored events for the year. We look forward to 100% parent attendance!
- Roots PCS look forward to participating in the **School Store Fundraiser** (<https://www.schoolstore.com/info/>) starting in September. This fundraiser allows students and teachers to win various prizes and classroom supplies. Schoolstore is an online website where over 400 businesses are giving money back to the K-12 Schools. Places like BEST BUY, WALMART, and VERIZON are giving up to 50% back to the K-12 schools to Support Education. Parent letters will be distributed on the week of September 23. We encourage all families to participate!

Welcome

Baba Tyshawn Chisholm

Principal

Baba Sadiki Hall

4th/5th Grade Teacher

Mama Lynette Wilson

PAC President (SY 2024-25)

A Special Thanks To:

- All parents who donated classroom supplies and gently used uniforms.
- Mama Symone Brooks for donation of sanitary napkins.
- Officer Williams of MPD for donation of school supplies.
- Mama Doris Kent for donation of donuts to grades 4th and 5th.
- Mama Lisa Gelaw for donation of Clorox wipes for each classroom.
- Mama JoAnne (foster grandparent) for donation of school supplies for grades K-1st.