



RPCS November 2024

NEWSLETTER



Happy November Families!

November is a month for giving thanks. As we reflect on all the things for which we are thankful, let us not forget the simple things we sometimes take for granted, like the gift of nature, our family, our friends, and the breath of life. During this month, let us begin and end each day with gratitude for life's many blessings. I am grateful for each of you, and I truly appreciate your support and commitment to Roots PCS and African-centered education.

~ Baba Tyshawn

ROOTS' POSITION ON "THANKSGIVING"

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated by Euro-Americans commemorating their victory over the indigenous Native Americans. The first Thanksgiving, in 1637 was proclaimed by the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It celebrated the massacre of 700 Pequot Indians during their Green Corn Dance ceremonies (*Researcher and anthropologist William Newell, Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 24, 1977*) in Mystic Fort, now called Groton, Connecticut. The gathering had no mention of *God* or *giving thanks*; merely a big party to emphasize to the Indians the military might of the Pilgrims (*Teachers' Workshop Newsletter, 1982*).

CELEBRATING GYE NYAME

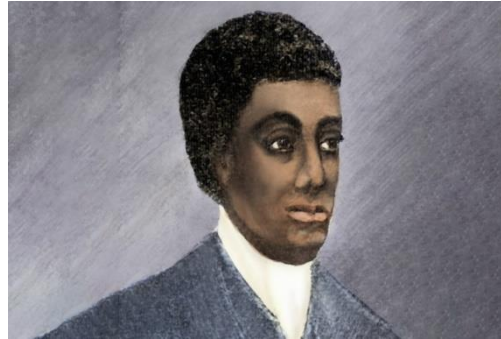


Gye Nyame (gee-ya-may) is an *Afrocentric Holiday* for "giving thanks" that is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November. It was created in 1977 by our ancestor Dr. Khallid Muhammad and the Egbe Gye Nyame (an African-centered study group). The phrase "GYE NYAME" is an Akan word which means "*Only God*". Gye Nyame is an Afrikan holiday that synthesizes rich principles of faith found in several traditional Afrikan spiritual traditions. It is a time for family, worship, and reflection.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This month we will commemorate the birthday of our historic role model, **Benjamin Banneker**. Our historical role model, Benjamin Banneker who was born a free man in Maryland on November 9, 1731.

He invented the first clock and almanac ever made in the United States. Among his many accomplishments, Benjamin Banneker provided major architectural and surveying assistance in the developmental plans for Washington, DC.



We will also celebrate the birthday of our present-day role model, **Dr. Guion S. Bluford**, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 22, 1942. Colonel Guy Bluford was NASA's First African American Astronaut. In 1964, he received a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Laser Physics, from Penn State University; in 1974, he received a M.S. in Aerospace Engineering and in 1978, he received a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering, both from the US Air Force Institute of Technology. Dr. Bluford also earned an MBA from the University of Houston. He earned the rank of Colonel in the US Air Force and was a fighter pilot who flew 144 combat missions, 65 of which were over north Vietnam.

In 1983, as a member of the Orbiter Challenger on the Mission STS-8, (the first mission to launch and land at night). He became the first African American in Space land at night. Dr. Bluford participated in four Space Shuttle flights between 1983 & 1992. On June 5, 2010, Dr. Guion Bluford was inducted into the US Astronaut Hall of Fame.



OUR ROOTS BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Oziri – 11/8
King Southerland – 11/13
Iset Brake – 11/20
Mama Keviana Holmes – 11/21
Sariyah Chase El-Williams – 11/24
Malachi Oji – 11/30
Kobie Twyman – 11/30

The Birthday Party will be held on Friday, November 22 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.*

- On Friday, November 1, 2024 – Grades KG-5 will attend a “**Science**” presentation on **Animals with Baba Darryl** in the Multipurpose Room.
- On Sunday, November 3, 2024 – Daylight Savings Time ends.
- On Monday, November 4, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Election Day)
- On Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Election Day)
- On Friday, November 8, 2024 – Pre-primary will visit the Smithsonian National Zoo.
 - The bus will leave at 9am-1pm.
- On Friday, November 8, 2024 – Grades K-5 will visit the Baltimore Aquarium.
 - Date is subject to change for this trip. Will keep parents up-to-date.
- On Monday, November 11, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Veteran’s Day)
- On Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – **Half School Day** (Early dismissal at 1pm)
- On Thursday & Friday, November 28-29, 2024 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Gye Nyame)

IMPORTANT UPDATE

As the weather changes, please send your children dressed in appropriate clothing. In addition, the children should be reminded of their behavior; they should respect adults, their peers and school property. *Please label all children's clothing.*

School begins at 8:00am each day. Our tardy ratio is becoming too high. Please be informed that there are consequences for the excessive number of tardies/absences your child accrues. Please arrive at school ON TIME each day. This becomes a part of your child's permanent school record!

IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE

All Universal Health Certificates, Immunization Exemptions, and Oral Assessments should be received prior to the final deadline on Friday, December 6. Following this deadline, any outstanding students (target grades PK3, PK4, and KG) will be temporarily excluded from classroom instruction starting on Monday, December 9.

Compliance letters have been mailed out detailing which vaccines are required/overdue. Parents must consult with their child's physician and submit documentation as soon as possible!

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.

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.



PAC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAC meetings are scheduled on the last Thursday of each month. The next **PAC Meeting** will be held in-person on Thursday, November 21 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.

The annual **PAC** membership fee is \$65.00 per family. Payments can be made through CashApp – \$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 for donation of gently used uniforms.
- All parents who volunteered to chaperone for the Butler's Orchard Field Trip.
- Mama Arkilah Womack for donation of snacks for the students.
- The Community Partnership (across the street) for donation of office supplies.
- Baba Mark Wheatle for donation of snacks for the students.
- PAC sends a special shoutout to all staff, parents, and friends of Roots PCS who contributed to our 2024 Masquerade Ball Fundraiser; it was a success!

