



# RPCS April 2024

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## NEWSLETTER



Greetings Roots Families and Happy April!

This month, students will observe a Solar Eclipse, celebrate Spring Break, DC Emancipation Day, Earth Day, and study the Human Body. As we continue to welcome the Spring season, let us keep the momentum, stay focused and finish the month Roots strong!

Re-enrollment forms are due! If you have not already done so, please complete and submit the form to reserve your child(ren)'s seat(s) for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. In addition, please join us for Enrollment Saturday on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm to complete your enrollment packet. Our summer program enrollment forms are now available. Seats are limited, so please submit the form at your earliest convenience. The deadline is Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the students will witness the Solar Eclipse! We have purchased solar eclipse viewing glasses for grades K-5, and we will experience this historical event together. The maximum eclipse will take place at 3:20pm with the Sun 89% covered by the moon. What an exciting event for our students to witness! Our universe is truly amazing! Enjoy Spring Break everyone!

~ Mama Rasheki

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Re-Enrollment Forms are available at the front office. We ask that all returning families submit their forms by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to secure your child's seat for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents may return forms in-person or scan to Mama Keviana at [kholmes@rootspcs.org](mailto:kholmes@rootspcs.org).

**Save the date!** Enrollment Saturday will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. Roots PCS will open its doors to enroll new students and re-enroll returning students for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have yet to submit your enrollment paperwork, this event is for you. New and returning families are welcome to join us!

**Please note:** If your child(ren) is/are matched with our school through the My School DC lottery, you have until Wednesday, May 1, 2024 to enroll and secure your spot!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This month, we commemorate the birthday of our beloved ancestor, **Booker Taliaferro Washington**, a brilliant educator, author, and orator. Born into slavery on April 5, 1856, he was educated at Wayland Seminary & Hampton Normal & Agricultural Institute (now known as Hampton University). Washington is most noted for the 'Self-Improvement' philosophy as well as building one of the greatest Black institutions in the world, *Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute* in Tuskegee, Alabama. In 1881, Tuskegee Institute (now known as Tuskegee University) became famous as a model of Vocational Education. At the age of 59, Washington died on November 14, 1915, in his home at Tuskegee Institute.



We commemorate the birthday of our ancestor and role model, **Dr. Maya Angelou**. She was a well-renowned author, poet, historian, actress, educator, Civil Rights activist, screenplay writer, producer, and director. She died on May 8, 2014, at the age of 87. At the time of her death, Dr. Angelou was a *Reynolds Professor of American Studies* at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

We commemorate the birthday of our present day shero, **Cathy Hughes**. She was born on April 22, 1947, in Omaha, Nebraska. She is a Media Mogul, Radio & TV personality, and Business Executive. The first African American woman to head a publicly traded company. Her Washington, DC-based radio station, *Radio One* has 53 radio stations in 16 urban markets. In January 2004, *Radio One* launched *TV One*, a national cable and satellite television network for African American adults.





## OUR ROOTS BIRTHDAYS

Abdus-Salam Farrah – 4/1

Sarah Andong – 4/19

Mars Kibby – 4/22

Aszuriah Gunter-Neely – 4/25

**The Birthday Party will be held on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Summer Program Enrollment Forms are now available. There are limited spaces. Submission deadline is Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Grades K-5 will attend a **Science presentation on the ‘Human Body’ with Baba Darryl** in the Multipurpose Room.
- On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Re-Enrollment Forms are due (Returning Families Only)
- On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – **There is no Before Care or After Care provided on this day.**
- On Tuesday–Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – CLASS Observations for Pre-primary
- On Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – School Visit by DCPCSB’s Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis
- On Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Grades K-5 will engage in a Solar Eclipse Viewing at Kennedy Street location
- On Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day (SCHOOL CLOSED for Students)
- On Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Ujamaa School Anniversary Dinner, 7pm-11pm
- On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. Grades 2-5 will participate in the festival with S.I.T.Y. Stars Academy (*this event is optional*).
- On Monday–Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- On Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – DC Emancipation Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- On Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day
- On Thursday–Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip to the National Museum of Health and Medicine (Grades K-1<sup>st</sup> on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> on the 26<sup>th</sup>)
- On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Enrollment Saturday from 9AM-12PM (New and Returning Families)



## LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW FOSTER GRANDPARENT

**Mama Joanne Smith**  
(Serving grades K)

## LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW BABIES AT ROOTS

**Brianna Muya, 9lbs** (*Daniel's Baby Sister*)  
**Leoline Fombon Anembe, 8lbs 6oz** (*Sarah's Baby Sister*)

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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 (April 26<sup>th</sup>), the students have the chance to help their class win a pizza party. The class with the most students dressed in traditional **AFRICAN GARB** wins!

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

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Roots is working diligently to build our social media presence. Follow us on all platforms and feel free to spread the word. In addition, please check out our [upgraded website!](#)

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)



@ROOTSPCSDC (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, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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, \$65.00 (per family) is due on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. 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!



## CALLING ALL PARENTS



Are you creative, have strong ideas, and want to spearhead PAC-sponsored activities at Roots PCS?

The PAC Committee is currently in need of a leadership team. If you are an active parent interested in a leadership position with PAC, please notify Mama Rasheki at the front office ([rkuykendall@rootspcs.org](mailto:rkuykendall@rootspcs.org)).

### *A Special Thanks To:*

- Parents who served as chaperones on field trips.
- Parents who chaperoned for the PAC-sponsored event, 'Parents Night Out' Sleepover.
- Parents who donated classroom manipulatives and learning tools for Pre-primary.
- Families who contributed to our Schoolwide Book Blast.
- Families who contributed to the School Dojo Store. We encourage all families to contribute to the store, we accept manipulatives and other items appropriate for the students.
- Mama May Ekoho for donating lunch for staff at Kennedy Street location.
- Mama Monet Whittaker for donating breakfast pastries for staff at Kennedy Street location.
- Baba Mark Wheatle for donating breakfast pastries for staff at Kennedy Street location.
- Baba Musa Mateen for donating baseball bat sets for students.
- The PAC Committee for hosting an awesome Schoolwide Sleepover Event!

