ROOTS ACTIVITY LEARNING CENTER

November 2024

Monthly Newsletter

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Roots A.L.C.'s POSITION ON THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated by Euro-Americans commemorating their victory over the indigenous native Americans. The governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony proclaimed the first Thanksgiving in 1637. It celebrated the massacre of 700 Pequot Indians while they were in their Green Corn Dance ceremonies in Mystic Fort, now called Groton Connecticut.2 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. Native Americans on the East Coast observe Thanksgiving as a day of mourning. Some Africans in Americans declare a moratorium on Thanksgiving because the same Europeans cruelly enslaved us in 1637. Roots' position during the day of Euro-American Thanksgiving is that we fast during the day, then after the sun sets, we end the fast with a prayer and feast around family unity - Umoja. Shenole Benton, League of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of the Western Hemisphere, 1992. Researcher and anthropologist William Newell, Wisconsin State Journal, November 24, 1977

**Hero and Shero for the Month**

Benjamin Banneker

This month we will commemorate the birthday of Benjamin Banneker (Born 1731 - Died 1806). Without Benjamin Banneker, our nation's capital would not exist as we know it. After a year of work, the Frenchman hired by George Washington to design the capital, L'Enfant, stormed off the job, taking all the plans. Banneker placed on the planning committee at Thomas Jefferson's request, saved the project by reproducing from memory, in two days, a complete layout of the streets, parks, and major buildings. Thus Washington, D.C. itself can be considered a monument to the genius of this great man. Banneker created his own clock, made entirely of wood (1753). Famous as the first clock built in the New World, it kept perfect time for forty years. From 1792 to 1802, Banneker published an annual Farmer's Almanac, for which he did all the calculations himself. The Almanac won Banneker fame as far away as England and France. He used his reputation to promote social change: namely, to eliminate racism and war. But Banneker's reputation was never in doubt. He spent his last years as an internationally known polymath: farmer, engineer, surveyor, city planner, astronomer, mathematician, inventor, author, and social critic.

Virginia (Aziza) Jones.

**Nov. 1, 1935 - Aug. 31st, 2017**

A person wearing glasses

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We will also commemorate Queen Mother Virginia (Aziza) Jones. Mama Jones was born November 1, 1935 in Canton, MI. Mama Jones attended the Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, MI and Omaha University in Omaha, NE. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from D.C. Teachers College. After teaching at Houston Elementary School, Mama Jones joined Roots Activity Learning Center to open the Primary Division in 1978. As a skilled and seasoned educator, Mama Jones served as a mentor teacher, Head of the Primary Division, and Principal and Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Roots A.L.C. Transitioned August 31st, 2017. Queen Mother Virginia (Aziza) Jones. Mama Jones was chosen by the National Association of Secondary Principals as DC Middle Level Principal of the Year 2010



Mama Mercadise -2nd

Mama Renada- 13th

Jamiyah Berry – 21st

Asa Simmons Green-25th

Maazi Lee -25th

Happy Birthday to all November Birthdays!!



**November 5th**

**Voting Day**

**Veterans Day**

**November 11th**

**Thanksgiving**

**Thursday 28th & Friday 29th**

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Special Thank you to the participants in the popcorn fundraiser for Roots ALC PAC!!!

To all our families that have donated:

**Monthly Snacks**

**Activity Workbooks**

**Masks**

**Cleaning supplies**

**Art Supplies**

**Classroom Fun supplies**

**And much more.**