



As we enter this season of gratitude, we want to take a moment to express our deep appreciation for each of you. We want to reflect on the journey we have shared and the progress we continue to make together.

To our dedicated staff: Your unwavering commitment to our students' well-being is truly inspiring. You provide not only education but also compassion and understanding, creating a safe haven where our students can thrive. Thank you for your tireless efforts to help them navigate their challenges and celebrate their victories, no matter how small.

To our courageous students: Each day, you demonstrate remarkable strength and resilience. Working through your unique challenges takes immense courage, and your determination to do better is commendable. Remember that progress is not always linear, but every step you take—no matter how small—brings you closer to your goals. We believe in you and are here to support you every step of the way.

To our supportive families: Your involvement and encouragement are crucial to our students' journeys. Thank you for being their advocates and for your trust in our team. Together, we can create a supportive network that empowers our students to overcome obstacles and strive for a brighter future.

To our invaluable community partners: Your contributions enrich our programs and provide our students with opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. Thank you for sharing your resources and expertise, helping us create a community where our students can flourish.

As we reflect on what we are thankful for this season, let us celebrate the strength and perseverance of our entire community. Together, we are building a brighter future, and we are grateful for each of you who plays a role in this important work.



Thank you both so much for the wonderful catered meal you provided for our staff. We do our job without expecting anything in return, but your kind gesture truly meant a lot to us. It's moments like these that remind us of the supportive community we are a part of.

We genuinely appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Sincerely,  
Green Tree School and Services Staff

## GRATITUDE SPOTLIGHT:

MS. CHANEL PARKER & MR. VICTOR BOND



# HBCU WEEK AT GTS



Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are institutions of higher education in the United States that were established primarily to serve the African American community. Founded during a time of segregation and limited access to education for Black students, HBCUs have played a crucial role in providing quality education and fostering leadership. Today, they continue to celebrate Black culture, promote social justice, and offer a supportive environment for students of all backgrounds, contributing significantly to the educational landscape and the broader society.

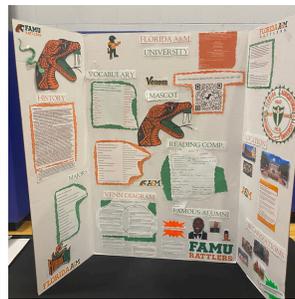
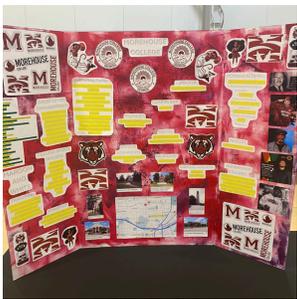
The Divine Nine refers to the nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). Established in the early 20th century, these fraternities and sororities were created to foster community, promote academic achievement, and advocate for social justice among African Americans. The organizations include Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Theta. Each organization has its unique values, history, and contributions to society, collectively playing a vital role in the African American community and beyond.

Classes selected various HBCUs and fraternities and sororities of the Divine Nine to research and present on throughout the week. They explored their history, notable alumni/members and unique programs. Students presented their research and displayed their boards as their peers and staff walked around to hear their presentations.

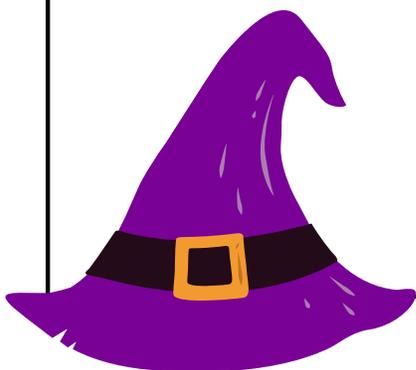
Stepping and strolling are dynamic traditions of the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities, rooted in African American culture. Stepping, which combines intricate choreography and body percussion, emerged in the early 20th century as a way to express unity and pride. Strolling is a more informal dance that highlights camaraderie during social events. At the close of the week, we welcomed members of Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma, who showcased these vibrant traditions and shared their cultural significance. Both forms celebrate heritage and community, remaining essential to the identity and spirit of these organizations today.

We want to give a shout out to our dedicated staff members who attended historically Black colleges and universities and those that are proud members of the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities. Their experiences at these institutions not only shaped their academic and professional journeys but also instilled in them a commitment to community service, leadership, and social justice.

Thank you to Mr. Terrell for organizing this week and to all the students, teachers, and staff for your participation. The presentations were fantastic and we appreciate your dedication in making this week memorable!



# HALLOWEEN FRIGHT FEST





JAIEL ESPINAL  
AND  
CAYLON BIVENS

# “AND THE WINNER IS”

Ms. Colleen recently organized a 2v2 basketball tournament and a checkers tournament for our students! These events provided a wonderful opportunity for the kids to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The basketball tournament was filled with energy and excitement as students competed on the court, while the checkers tournament challenged their strategic thinking and patience. Both events were a great success, fostering camaraderie and friendly competition among the students. Thank you, Ms. Colleen, for creating such engaging and fun experiences!



VINCIN THOMPSON



# BEHAVIOR BRIEFING



## “Welcoming Mr. Jajuan to the Behavior Management Team”



We are excited to introduce Mr. Jajuan, our newest member of the behavior team! He’s already making a positive impact. Starting out as a 1:1 aide, he’s shown incredible patience, care, and effectiveness while working with students.

Mr. Jajuan exemplifies many qualities that make him an outstanding behavior manager. He’s approachable, always listening to students and validating their feelings. His ability to stay calm and composed in challenging situations sets a great example for everyone. He also uses creative strategies to engage students, making it easier for them to express themselves and navigate tough moments.

We are truly fortunate to have him on our team. Not only is he dedicated and hardworking, but he also fits in seamlessly with us! His sense of humor and his infectious laughter makes even the toughest days more enjoyable. He has a knack for connecting with everyone. His positive attitude and easygoing nature make him a pleasure to work with!

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Jajuan!



**NATIVE  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
NOVEMBER**



November is Native American Heritage Month, a dedicated time to celebrate the vibrant cultures, histories, and contributions of Native American communities. This month recognizes the diversity of tribes across the United States and highlights their significant influence on our nation's history and culture.

**NATIONAL  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK  
NOVEMBER 11TH-15TH**



Our school psychologists and school psychology interns are vital members of our GTSS team. They function like detectives who help kids discover their strengths and overcome challenges. We are so grateful to have Ms. Kaylee, Ms. Kirsten, and Ms. Olivia! Your unique skills and dedication to supporting our students make a real difference in their lives. Thank you for your compassion and teamwork in creating a safe, nurturing environment where students can thrive. We appreciate all that you do!

**STUDENT FRIENDSGIVING  
NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024**



We are excited to announce that each class will be hosting a Students Friendsgiving! Parents are warmly invited to come and contribute by bringing a prepackaged dish to share. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate together and enjoy a variety of flavors. Additional details will be sent home with your child soon, so please stay tuned!

**EDUCATION  
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS DAY  
NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024**



We want to take a moment to acknowledge and recognize our 1:1 aides and job coaches for their exceptional contributions. Their dedication and support are vital in helping our students achieve their goals and develop independence. By providing personalized assistance and encouragement, they create a positive and inclusive environment that empowers every student to thrive. Thank you for your hard work and commitment!

**NATIONAL  
PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY  
NOVEMBER 21ST, 2024**



National Parent Involvement Day is a dedicated opportunity to celebrate the essential role that parents play in their children's education. This day encourages families to engage actively with schools, fostering a strong partnership between home and the educational community. By participating in school activities, attending events, and supporting their children's learning, parents contribute significantly to student success. Let's take this day to recognize and appreciate the positive impact of parental involvement on our students and schools!

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER DAY  
NOVEMBER 22ND, 2024**



Ms. Ophelia has been doing an exceptional job in her classroom. Her ability to connect with students and create an engaging learning environment has made a significant impact on her students. We truly appreciate her dedication and flexibility during this time. Thank you, Ms. Ophelia, for all your hard work and for being such a valuable part of our school community!



# COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



## Families CCAN

“Wellness for Everyday Life”

- **Date:** November 18th
- **Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- **Location:** Online via Zoom

To register for this session or to find out more information about Families CCAN, go to <https://www.familiesccanphilly.org>

Families CCAN is an organization dedicated to supporting adults with disabilities to lead happy, independent lives and to fully participate in their communities. They offer a variety of resources, including peer-to-peer workshops, monthly resource meetings, cooking classes, and information on independent living support services. Join them for an online workshop where they will share information about their innovative programs designed to help individuals with disabilities incorporate wellness practices into their daily routines.



R.E.I.G.N. (Rooting, Empowering, Inspiring a Girl's Nation) is a nonprofit that provides a supportive and empowering environment for young Black girls. Their goal is to help these girls find their voice, build self-confidence, and stand up for what matters to them. They focus on helping them love who they are and understand their unique backgrounds involving race, gender, and social standing, which can sometimes make them feel overlooked.

Their programs teach important life skills and knowledge in areas like handling conflicts, understanding relationships, staying healthy, and planning for college and careers. They address serious challenges that Black girls often face more than others, such as unfair treatment in school, higher risks of violence, and feeling pressured to grow up too fast.

Through their "We Speak" program and various workshops, they help girls develop a strong sense of identity and become community leaders. Their summer internships offer a chance to tackle real issues that impact their lives and neighborhoods, preparing them to make a positive difference. At R.E.I.G.N., they believe in nurturing girls to be proud, informed, and active members of their communities, ready to take on the world.

### Health Justice Convening Series

**First Workshop Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 AM Pacific Time

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

#### Agenda:

1. Welcome and Overview – Convening Team
2. Introductions – All Participants
3. Field Observations – Principal Participants
4. Break
5. Discussion – Linking Field Observations
6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks – Logistics for February Conference

#### Join the Zoom Meeting:

- Meeting ID: 984 9309 9979
- For quick join: +16699006833,,98493099979# (US – San Jose)



# YOUTH HOMELESS AWARENESS

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children and youth:

- who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- are living in emergency or transitional shelters or are abandoned in hospitals
- who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.



## HIGHER RISK POPULATIONS

- Black youth (83% higher risk)
- Hispanic youth (33% higher risk)
- LGBTQ youth (120% more likely)
- foster youth (40-50% of foster youth become homeless within 18 months of aging out of foster care)

## RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

- Right to immediate school enrollment even when records not present
- Right to remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest
- Right to receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- Right to receive support for academic success

## Resources

Bridge Project Facilitates free access to mental health services for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Services are available online and at no cost to the student, family, or local education agency (LEA). No health insurance necessary. To access, please contact the homeless liaison at your child's home school or district.

Finding Your Way in PA Pennsylvania based mobile and desktop app designed to share services, resources, and information with young people and families, particularly those experiencing homelessness. Can be accessed at the App store, Google Play store, or through a web browser at <https://findingyourwayinpa.app/>

PA 211 Provides help with low-cost and emergency housing in Philadelphia area. Dial 211 or text your zip code to 898-211.

<https://www.pa211.org/get-help/housing-shelter/>

PA Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness State-funded program designed to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education, regardless of their living situation. Resources available for parents and students. <https://ecyehpennsylvania.center-school.org/parents-and-students/>

## Connection of SEL & SAM to Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month offers a unique opportunity to increase empathy and understanding for individuals experiencing homelessness. SAM skills relevant to homelessness include treating others with respect and asking for help.



# STUDENT AMBASSADOR 2024

A leadership opportunity for students who are dedicated to serving and representing GTS.

## WHO CAN APPLY

- Middle School ES and AS Students
- High School ES and AS Students

## HOW TO APPLY

- Place your name on the sign-up sheet located outside of the Admissions office
- Applications will be delivered to students beginning 11/4/24

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- Great Personality
- Upholds GTS S.H.I.N.E. Values
- Satisfactory Grades
- Positive Behavior
- Wellspoken
- Reliable

APPLICATIONS  
DUE BY  
11/29/2024

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: **Ms. DeVose**  
(Office or mailbox)

Noon Dismissal  
11/5, 11/6, 11/20

No School  
11/11 & 11/27-29

# NOVEMBER 5TH



VOTING IS A VITAL PART OF OUR DEMOCRACY, EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS AND INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING. EVERY VOTE MATTERS!

# Winter WONDERLAND



This December, Green Tree School & Services will host our annual Winter Wonderland Event. Stay tuned for information on our fundraising campaign and how you can help spread the word.

## COMING SOON

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

