



BARACK OBAMA
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

“Great Futures Begin Here!”

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DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

Happy Kwanzaa and Holiday Greetings to All BOLA Families and Staff!

About Kwanzaa

Dr. Maulana Karenga, the department chair of Africana Studies at California State University, founded the holiday in 1966 as a way to celebrate and share important aspects of pan-African culture and African-American life, including heritage, community, family, justice, foods, and nature. Lasting for seven days, Kwanzaa isn't a religious holiday, but rather a secularly spiritual one that celebrates seven different principles that are collectively called the *Nguzo Saba*.

These key principles are each highlighted on one of the seven days of the holiday. They include the following, in order:

1. **Umoja** (unity)
2. **Kujichagulia** (self-determination)
3. **Ujima** (collective work and responsibility)
4. **Ujamaa** (cooperative economics)
5. **Nia** (purpose)
6. **Kuumba** (creativity)
7. **Imani** (faith)

Each day, one candle (collectively called the *Mishumaa Saba*) is lit in recognition of these principles. The candles—one black, three red, and three green—are held by the *kinara* (similar to the menorah used for Hanukkah), which is placed on a *mkeka* or straw mat. To honor the children in the family, one ear of corn (called the *vibunzi* or *muhindi*) is placed under the *kinara* for each child. Other symbols include a fruit basket (*mazao*) and a unity cup (*kikombe*) which are both placed o



Mama Kim Pritchett, Principal

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Upcoming Events

Chromebook Distribution for Distance Learning

Parents can pick up Chromebooks for students on Thursday,

December 9th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 16, 2021

PATT Meeting via Zoom (5:30PM)

Friday, December 17, 2021

The students Kwanzaa Performances will be available to view online.

Log on to: www.obamaacademy.org

All students will work virtually by logging on to Zoom via our website.

HOLIDAY BREAK

Monday, December 17, 2021 – Friday, December 30, 2021

Classes Resume on Monday, January 3, 2022