



FACS WATERLOO CELEBRATES

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa
A Celebration of Family,
Community and Culture



What is **KWANZAA**?

- Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan African holiday that celebrates family, community and most of all culture.
- Kwanzaa was created and first celebrated in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a then professor of Africana Studies.

Kwanzaa
*A Celebration of Family,
Community and Culture*



KWANZAA



- Dr. Karenga sought to create a celebration that would honor and uphold the values of ancient African cultures moreover, to inspire African Americans who were working for progress and change.
- Dr. Karenga states firmly on his belief and ensured that **KWANZAA** was not created to be a religious holiday nor was it created to replace Christmas.
- However, **KWANZAA** is based on the year end harvest festivals that have taken place throughout Africa for thousands of years.



KWANZAA



- The name **KWANZAA** is derived from the Swahili phrase “Matunda ya Kwanza” which translates to ***“FIRST FRUITS OF THE HARVEST”***



Symbols of **KWANZAA**

- There are symbols in **KWANZAA** which each have a special meaning.





Mkeka



- The *Mkeka* is a straw mat that symbolizes the tradition as the foundation on which all else rests.





Kinara



- The *Kinara* is a seven-space candle holder which represents the original stalk from which the African people originated.



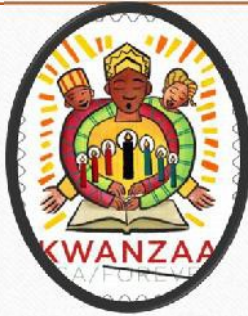


Muhindi



- The *Muhindi* are the ears of corn which represents the children of the stalk (parents of the house).



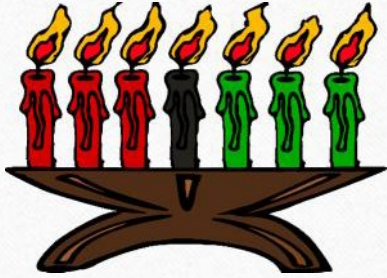


Zawadi



- The *Zawadi* which means Gifts. This symbol represents the fruits of the labor of the parents and the rewards of seeds sown by the children.





Mishumaa Saba



- The *Mishumaa Saba* is Swahili for Seven Candles. The Seven Candles stands for the Seven Core Principles. Each candle is lit on the day each principle is represented.





KWANZAA



- The candle lighting ceremony takes place when all family members are present. Children are encouraged to take on an active role in all the activities.
- The ceremony begins with the *TAMBIKO* (libation). This is an African form of praise which pays homage to personal and collective ancestors.
- After the *TAMBIKO* as a gesture of unity, the elder of the family then drinks from the *KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA* and then passes it for all to share.
- The candle lighting is central to the ceremony as this practice reinforces the meaning of the principles.



KWANZAA



- The color of each candle is represented by a different aspect of the African culture. The placement of the candles in the *KINARA* are as follows:
- Black- is for the color of African people everywhere. This candle is located in the center of the *KINARA*.
- Red- is for the blood of the ancestors. There are three red candles and they are placed to the left of the *KINARA*.
- Green- is for the earth, life, the ideas and promise of the future. There three green candles and they are placed to the right of the *KINARA*.



KWANZAA



- The celebration is observed from December 26 to January 1 culminating in a feast and gift giving.
- **KWANZAA** has **SEVEN** core principles also known as *Nguzo Saba*.
- *Nguzo Saba* is also known as the **SEVEN** principles of African Heritage. This is said to be a communitarian African philosophy.



Principle # 1: UMOJA



1. UMOJA (UNITY)

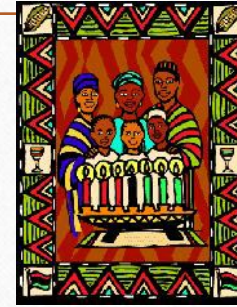
To strive for and maintain unity in the
family, community, nation and race.

NGUZO

SABA



Principle # 2: KUJICHAGULIA



2. KUJICHAGULIA

(SELF-DETERMINATION)

**To define ourselves, name ourselves,
create for ourselves and speak for
ourselves.**

NGUZO SABA



Principle # 3: UJIMA



3. UJIMA

(COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY)

To build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together.



Principle # 4: UJAMAA



4. UJAMAA

(COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS)

To build and maintain our own stores,
shops and other businesses and to
profit from them together.



Principle #5: NIA



5. NIA (PURPOSE)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.



Principle #6: KUUMBA



6. KUUMBA

(CREATIVITY)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.



Principle #7:



7. IMANI

(FAITH)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

