

The **ROUNDTABLE**

EDUCATION. OPPORTUNITY. EQUITY.

SECRET SANTA SNEAKER SUCCESS!

Thanks to the collective efforts of SMHS Guidance Counselor Ms. Sullivan, alumni James Strong, and Footlocker, Mansion scholars & staff got their Christmas presents early...

As part of Footlocker's 12 Days of Greatness, all Strawberry Mansion High School scholars, faculty, and staff members received a complimentary pair of new sneakers this holiday season!

On December 22nd, 2020, the Mansion community got the surprise of a lifetime when a truckload of brand new Footlocker sneakers (including Adidas, Nike, and Air Jordans) pulled up out front of the school. Scholars and staff were rewarded with some new kicks for the holidays for all of their effort and hand work put forth during digital learning for the first quarter of the Covid school year. During this event, guests also enjoyed the musical stylings of North



Philadelphia native and performing artist Gillie Da Kid, a paparazzi photoshoot, and piping hot chocolate to top it all off. **Thank you Footlocker for your generous donation & James Strong for all of your support!**

Pictured Above: New 10th grade rising scholar **Jazmin Colter** who scored a brand new pair of Jordans. *Middle:* Senior scholars **Kierra Vaughn, Tykeria Perry, Nicole Butler & Brite Alexander** with their new kicks. *On the Left:* Mansion scholars & staff pose with their Secret Santa surprise sneakers.



JANUARY 1
WINTER BREAK
New Year's Day



JANUARY 15
Early Dismissal
Staff Professional
Development

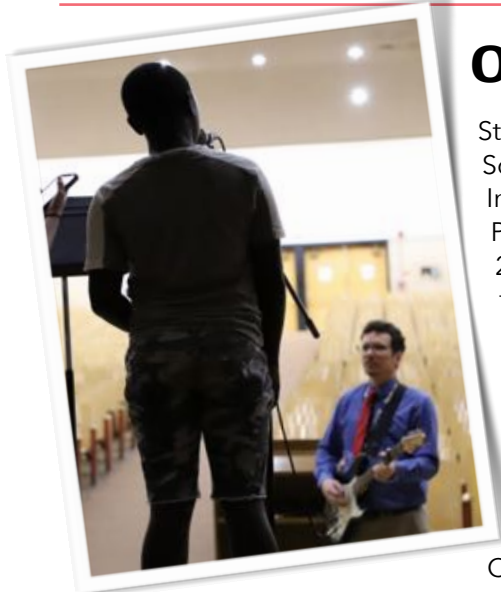


JANUARY 18
NO SCHOOL!
MLK Day of Service

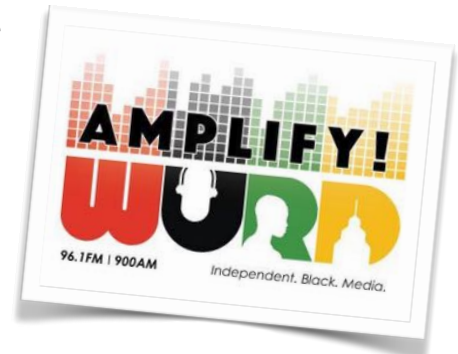


JANUARY 22
Senior Portraits

On the Radio with Dr. Hite...



Strawberry Mansion High School rising 10th Grade Scholar **Elijahwah Cannon** and Music Pathway Instructor Mr. Perkins were invited to speak with Philly's Superintendent Dr. Hite on the January 2nd, 2021 WURD Radio Show. They spoke about their engagement with the Mansion Music Pathway and shared a clip of music from last year's Lennon Bus track "The Sky's The Limit." Elijahwan recounted his experience recording while on the Lennon Bus. He also discussed his first meeting with his music teacher where after hearing him sing, Mr. Perkins said that **"He was going to be a STAR!"** We definitely are going to see great things from this scholar in the future... Congratulations to all on a job well done!



Ms. Henry's Philly Cultural Impact "JAWN"

Writing samples courtesy of **Jazmin Colter:**

Today, hip hop is one of the most trending genres, and one of the most popular as well. Although there is still controversy about the stereotype of hip hop music and people who listen to it, it has gotten extremely better due to people like Will Smith and Jazzy Jeff. D.J. Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, went on to win the first rap Grammy that year, for their crossover hit "Parents Just Don't Understand." It was the first ever rap Grammy that year, yet they were informed it was not going to be televised. Imagine being born blind and wanting to prove to

others that blind people can be just good at writing as anyone else. You work on an essay for 10 years, turn it in, and then you're informed you've won the biggest award of your lifetime for it. Now imagine being told that since you're blind, which is something you can't control and had made it harder for you to write your essay, you can't get your award or celebrate on television and get the recognition you deserve. That is just like what happened to Will Smith and Jazzy Jeff. Rap and Hip Hop has become much more popular and socially acceptable because of how Jazzy Jeff and Will Smith defended our culture.

The article says, "Mr. Smith was not there to collect the trophy after deciding with some of his hip-hop peers, including two other nominees in the category, not to show up." This sentence is referring to when Will Smith and Jazzy Jeff decided to boycott the Grammys, and not show up. He convinced some other black artists to not attend as well, to prove to the world that the artists of hip hop won't stand for the discrimination. This was just the starting point of a new time, where the world will realize that artists of color deserve the same commitment, time, and recognition that other artists get. Once the world saw what Will Smith did, it sparked even more protests and boycotts. Most importantly, Will Smith's boycott helped shape the hip hop community and what people think of its culture.

Philadelphia is a city of amazing artists, activists, and innovators, and has been since it was founded in 1682. Rising 10th Grade Mansion scholars in **Miss Henry's** ELA class are engaged in exploring the impact Philadelphia has had on the development of American culture. Scholars are researching various musicians from Philadelphia and examining the way they shaped the music industry. Chosen artists include **Meek Mill, Pattie LaBelle, Boyz II Men, Eve, John Coltrane, and Jill Scott.** Currently, scholars are drafting a research paper, and then will transition into more creative endeavors. Looking forward to what they discover next!

From the Desk of Ms. Sullivan...

How to navigate your post-secondary education journey:



Check college application deadlines



Transcript request on Naviance



Complete FAFSA & PHEAA applications



Apply for scholarships & grants



Apply to trade schools if interested

For more information, please contact avsullivan@philasd.org

