The Sankofa Bird Newsletter
of
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
4256 Paul Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19124
Telephone # 215-288-2001

Volume 5/Issue III  November, 2013

Message from Dr. Mama: Counting Our Blessings

Holiday time is the perfect time to count your blessings. As we approach the end of this calendar year, I find myself filled with gratitude for the opportunity to continue to do this work, in a neighborhood filled with potential and possibilities as the Frankford community. At Sankofa, we certainly have much for which to be grateful in this holiday season.

The year, 2013 will go down in Sankofa history as a year of tremendous blessing! It is this year that we finally became a K-12 school, with all of our levels represented. In 2013 we moved into the building that we first chose for our school in 2006. We finally have our two schools close enough to be able to more easily bring them together. We graduated our first class this year. We sent our first children back to the Motherland. We expanded our programs, so that now more children have art, music, and physical education.

One of the greatest blessings is watching how our children shine! Our children are growing to be such dynamic activists. Below, you will see a story by Mia Ingram. She is one of the 8th grade students who went to a meeting to take action against a plan to build over a grave site that contains the remains of many of our ancestors. Last week, I went to a human rights conference and took one of our seniors, Aboubacar Doukoure. Bouba. He simply asked a question, and when he was finished, one of the conference organizers came to me and wanted to know how she could get her teenage son to think and speak like Bouba. Wherever our children go, they shine!

Standing Up for our Ancestors by Mia Ingram

On Tuesday, December 16, 2013, several scholars from the Ashanti Nation had the opportunity to go to the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC) meeting. Our delegation included Tyreek Walker, Ny'myah Roache, Shy'erra Ladson, Jada McLeod, and myself. The meeting started with the pouring of libations. Afterwards, Brother Michael Coard talked about the desecration of 5,000 African ancestors at the Mother Bethel AME Church Burying Ground, located at 6th and Lombard. This connects to The Rains, a novel we are reading in English class, because Octavius Catto’s fiancee, Caroline LeCount (who is buried there), was the Rosa Parks before Rosa Parks, meaning she fought against segregation on public transportation in Philadelphia during the 1800s. Also, possibly resting there is Ignatius Beck, a wealthy black man who was tricked and sold back into slavery. Brother Beck founded The Free Produce Society, which boycotted products made by slave labor. Hearing about how this sacred space has been turned into a trash dump, garden, and playground was hard to believe. We heard about the “Green 2015” project taking over this space and excavating it. However, the problem with that is they would be digging up the remains of the bodies. This brings up a question: If we let the Green 2015 project proceed, what will happen to our ancestors? Will the stories be lost, or, as Sankofa, can we save these stories and bring justice to our ancestors? The Ashanti Nation plans to use SBA to HEKA to bring justice to our ancestors, who deserve to be resting in peace and honored.
## Congratulations our Honor Roll Scholars - First Report

### Yoruba – Kindergarten
- SBA
  - Suwaydah Abdul-Lateef
  - Chevas Clark
  - Lamar Guerra
  - Brianna Mitchell
  - Marley Mitchell
  - Ra’mon Street
  - Amun Ra Lee

### Kongo – 1st Grade
- Imhotepian
  - Asiya Bowman
  - Asim Hardy
  - Delaney Raines

- SBA
  - Daeshia Apollon
  - Demetrios Israel
  - George Lane
  - Amira Moorehedad
  - Kaden Stewart
  - Taylor Sith
  - Raheem Thomas
  - Shjonna Ayers-Davis
  - Naji Bey
  - Zyrah Bowman
  - Olivia Bunner
  - Alex Finch
  - Ah’mya Long
  - Christon Mitchell-Brown
  - Nathanael Pascal
  - Girmir Worley

### Kush-2nd Grade
- Imhotepian
  - Asad Hopson
  - Yasir Anderson
  - Jazymn Covington
  - Vaughn Fleming
  - Kayla Hamlin
  - Reginald Joseph
  - Serenity Lowe
  - Ibn-Abdul Messiah
  - Jovanica Raphael
  - Aaliyah Seriki
  - Malika Turner

- SBA
  - Aysa Branham
  - Jeremiah Carter
  - Nakel Chambers
  - Keon Kenner
  - Atoyah Luby
  - Mekhi Millien
  - Terriion Moore
  - Alexis Murphy
  - Jazymn Simpson
  - Zaire White
  - Takay Williams
  - Kiyana Allen

### Kusah SBA Continued
- Shawn Copeland
- Rashia Goosby
- Za’Riyah Johnson
- Braxton McNeil
- Sameer Robinson
- Nyla Simpson
- Brian Teagle
- Semalah Wallace
- Gabriel Wilkes
- Zha’r Williams

### Dogan-5th Grade
- Scribe
  - Malikia Kenner
  - Elijah Mitchell
  - Tiana Bing

- Bambara-6th Grade
- Imhotepian
  - Tahirah Arter

- SBA
  - Qyadir Hines
  - David Lavine
  - Maryam Bint-Shafeeq
  - Jeremiah Butler
  - Emani Gentry
  - Marquan Thomas
  - Rasa Watson
  - Jasmine Winchester

### Songhai-3rd Grade
- SBA
  - Tytiana Andrews-Rowe
  - Zaakirah Bowman
  - Ahmani Davenport
  - Bobby Hoyle
  - Donae Thomas
  - Faith Banks
  - Iyannah Price
  - John Winchester

### Zulu-4th Grade
- SBA
  - Ijnanya Briggs
  - Amari Jackson
  - Nykya Watson
  - Ishtar El
  - Eric Gentry
  - Jaden Gillis
  - Kayla Harris
  - Ade Hopson
  - Tashaan McGill
  - Shaun Sanders-Bradford
  - Nailah Smith

### Dogan-5th Grade
- Imhotepian
  - Zayda Flanagan
  - Shaun Synder

### SBA
- Hunt
  - Naja Lumsden
  - Isaiah Webb
  - C’naa Battle
  - Martin Gillis
  - Maeva Brea
  - Tayonah Dawson
  - Michael Hargrove
  - Trencye Harris
  - Mzyah Heck
  - Riyahd Lewis
  - Danyesil Meija
  - Rodney Sims

### Ashanti-8th Grade
- Scribe
  - Martyiya Gillis
  - Shy-Erta Ladson
  - Gabriela Morales
  - Marayas Roher
  - Rujjyyah Bint-Idris
  - Tariq Mines
  - Andryanna Smith

### Dogara-9th Grade
- SBA
  - Yacob Rogovin
  - Manthita Diawara
  - Mia Heredia
  - Johura Khan

### Scribe
- Kristan Devine
- Isabelle Lindor
- Shayla Pennington
- Rasheed Ross
- Jordan Edelen

### Axuum-10th Grade
- SBA
  - Cassandra Boyd
  - Darrien Johnson
  - Carolyn Coleman

### Scribe
- Essence Lawson
- Lanier Abrams
- Rasheeda Boelter

### Kemet-11th Grade
- SBA
  - Aminah Wilkinson
  - Esraa Abdelwahab
  - Najean Johnson
  - Tala Nelson
  - Infinity Pennington
  - Kenny Richardson

### Scribe
- Ciani Fleming-Evans
- Justin Anson

### Nubia-12th Grade
- SBA
  - Zainaou Dabo
  - Nyeerah Long
  - Jaylen Price
  - Khaleef Alexander
  - Sakwon-Ali Epps

### Scribe
- Aboubacar Doukoure
- Symone Nelson
- Jazmear Ross
- Linda Brown
- Aja Jordan-Long
- Egypt Shabazz
The students of Kemet have started to apply to college. They have attended several college fairs and college tours during the school year. Before the winter break, each student is required to apply to 10 schools and apply for 15 scholarships. If you have any helpful information or contacts, please contact a member of Kemet.

Let's Go Kemet!

Linda Brown
Accepted to
Virginia Union University
Offered a $2000.00 Scholarship

Tammye Caldwell
Accepted to
Virginia Union University
Offered a Scholarship for $2000.00

Khaleef Alexander
Accepted to
Virginia Union University
Clark Atlanta University

Sakwon Ali Epps
Accepted to
Bryn Athyn College

Anthony Wright Downing
Accepted to
Holy Family University

Linda Brown
Accepted to
Virginia Union University
Offered a $2000.00 Scholarship
The first week in December was Spirit Week for the Upper School. On Monday, the upper school experienced an explosion of giant onesies, slippers and flannel, with Pajama Day. Twin Tuesday made everyone think they were seeing double. On Wacky Wednesday, anything goes! Thursday was time for Sankofa to celebrate the 70s and 80s. Friday was the Nelson Mandela Memorial Community Meeting, featuring a mini documentary about Madiba, on the day after his transition and a pep rally, led by Iwa Pele, to get the Lady Warriors ready for their first game. We’ve got spirit, yes we do! We’ve got spirit, How ’bout you????

TRIBUTE TO MADIBA

By Naseem Brown
with help from Miles Griffin, Sahir Chambers, Shakira Marks-Brown, Dayonna Farmer and Falande Jean-Baptiste

In Servant Leadership II class, on the Monday following the passing of Rolihlahla (Nelson) Mandela, also known as Madiba, 10B read about his life and worked on artistic expressions of it. One team came up with the following poem, that will be performed as a rap:

MADIBA

Nelson Mandela was a significant man
In 1918 he put the world in his hands
He stood up for his country, 27 years in a cell
They really, really wanted him to rot in jail
He wanted to get his people to a better place
He was loving and caring; he didn’t care about your race
He was well respected, well connected
And when the time was right, he was elected
The first Black South African president you better respect it!
He inspired a lot of people and changed their lives
We know he’s dead and gone but his soul still survives
Madiba, Madiba, father to us all

With Love,
from the Mighty Nation of Dagara!
Sankofa Students Practice Servant Leadership

On Thursday, December 5, 2013, Sis. Darrien Johnson, Bro. Azeize Sims, Bro. Devohn Ward, Bro. Bahnir Matthews and Bro. Amar Harris, from the mighty nations of Dagara and Nubia II, attended a citywide meeting of youth, convened by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the School District of Philadelphia, Nicky A. Charles. The topic at the Strategy, Policy, and Priority Meeting was student engagement. The goal of the meeting was to get the perspective of students. By all accounts, these young Servant Leader scholars comported themselves well, and they were willing to offer their opinions about how to make schools in Philadelphia more relevant, interesting and successful. This group of youth will be convening weekly to continue to flesh out their ideas and devise plans of implementation. For more information, please contact Bro. Bunmi Samuel, at boombasticsinc@gmail.com.


SANKOFA UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Being selected as Student of the Month is no small feat. Students must represent, in every way, what it means to be responsible, socially and academically. Therefore, we say congratulations to the following students:

**Nubia II**
Manthita Diawara, Omar Felder, Shayla Pennington, Amar Harris, Krissi Devine, Tea’ Campbell, Yacob Hart, Johura Khan, Delilah Rodriguez, Malik Rowell, Diavion Northington, Taliyah Barnes

**Dagara**
Cureenah Hunte, Ajeenah Ross, Naseem Brown, Verland Wayns, Lanier Abrams, Essence Lawson, John Schoen-McCullough, Orkhaya Ndiaye, Jasmine Thomas, Shamarrow Lumsden, Joshua Clements, Ian Kremmerer

**Axum**
Rashid Young, Esraa Abdelwahab, Deja Rawls, Tyleem Grey, Joshua Rhoades, Alexis Mosley

**Kemet**
Jazmear Ross, Shakera Yates-Hinton, Aboubacar, Doukoure, Nyeerah Long, Shahira Travis
When Academics Meets Athleticism ………
By Bro. Kashief—Fitness Facilitator and Coach

In our Mighty Middle School, I have created a board for our student athletes. This board will display the top student athletes, based on academics and athletic ability. The top academic performers will be updated every marking period, and the top athletic performers will be updated every week. The first two students to be displayed on our mighty middle School board will be Ian Chappelle and Khalil Turner, of our boys basketball team. Ian displayed what a true "student" athlete should look like academically, by earning all A's and one B on his report card. It is not an easy task to successfully balance both academics and athletics, and Ian has done an outstanding job of excelling, both on and off the court. Khalil Turner has been labeled our top athletic performer of the week, due to his tremendous play, which helped lead his team to a victory this weekend, in their first game over Mastery Thomas.

The Votes Are In!!
Congratulations to the elected officers for the 2013-2014 Sankofa Middle School Student Council, A.K.A the “Sankofa S.U.N” (Students United with Nia).

President: ; Sierra Lumsden
Vice President: Randy Lowe
Secretary: Martin Gillis
Co– Treseaters: Yusef Smith and Daneisy Meja
Historian: Jasmine Hunt
Club Sponsor: Sis. Brown
Exploring Identity and Geography through The Diary of Young Girl by Anne Frank

As the Nation of Fulani continues their exploration of their essential question of freedom: “Where is freedom? How can our environment impact our experience of freedom?,” we turn to the seminal text, The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank. Before delving into the history of post World War I Germany, the history of anti-Semitism, or “Hitler’s Final Solution,” we started this unit by looking first, inward at our identities and where we call home. To help us better understand how our neighborhoods and places of origin influence our identities, each student wrote a “Where I’m From” poem, in which they listed the aspects of their community that define them. Afterward, we turned our attention to how others might view us and our communities. Based off of an excerpt from Sandra Cisneros’ The House on Mango Street, each 7A scholar produced a piece entitled “Those Who Don’t,” which asked them to consider and rebut how outsiders might view them.

“Those Who Don’t” by Keolebogile More

Those who don’t know any better, judge us. Those who don’t know, think we are dangerous. Those who don’t know us, think bad things. Those who don’t know, hear things about us and think we are bad. Those who don’t know, think otherwise. They think we steal; they assume we do things we don’t. Those who don’t know any better are scared. They talk nothing but lies. Some may be true, and others may not. Those who don’t know, think we are not smart enough. Those who don’t know, think we are the face of crime. Those who don’t know, think otherwise.

But we know that we are intellectual scholars. We are not the face of crime. We are not the lies they talk about. We are not the bad ones. But we know that we are the ones graduating, and we are the ones in college. We are the teachers, the doctors, the nurses, the lawyers and the judges. But we know that we are the ones, the smart ones.

“Those Who Don’t” by Ian Chappelle

Those who don’t know any better, think that boys have no feelings. They think that we have rock solid hearts and feel no emotion. Those who don’t know any better, think that males can’t be sad, or they think that we don’t have the ability to cry. They always expect us to keep to ourselves and are shocked when a man cries.

But we know that life hurts, and that God gave all humans the same emotional abilities. We know that death, defeat and failure hurt. We know that sometimes we can’t hold back. We know we are normal. We know we have feelings. We know we are all human.

Student Writing Corner

I Now know what Kujichagulia Means

By Jariem Groover

It was the beginning of the year, and I had planned on starting off fresh. I was hoping to be a new Jariem, but, as time went on, I found myself falling back into my old ways. I was beginning to talk back to teachers, I was not doing my work, and I was getting in trouble all over again. I was taking time out of my mother’s day to have her come to meetings at school that were not necessary. I was keeping other scholars from learning and getting their education and, most of all, I was hurting myself. I knew that I need to do something, but I did not know what. How could I turn my negative behavior into a positive situation?

After being punished and talked to by everyone, I finally realized that all of the things I was putting myself and my mother through was foolishness. My teacher reached out to me, and I accepted their help. Today, I thank Sis. Brown, Sis. Blocker, Sis. Badger, Sis. Tawana and my mother for helping me change into a better scholar. I am working on being the best student that I can be.

In my opinion, Kujichagulia means to have determination to do better for me and my future. I am Jariem Taron Groover, I am 12 years old, and I am who I say I am. I am an upcoming Intellectual Warrior.
Middle School
Students of the Month

5th Grade: Dogon

Front Row: Isnmael Ramirez, Khadijah Nurriden, Tiana Bing
Back Row: Zihmira Thomas-Ware, Dwayne Wells, Naja Lumsden, Tayonah Dawson

6th Grade: Bambara

Front Row: Luis Padilla, Taijuan Smith, Nasim Brown, Whiten, William Minor
Back Row: Khadijah Turner, Evelyn Luciano, Da’Nya T, Emani Gentry, Rashede Goosby

7th Grade: Fulani

Front Row: Gabrielle Jelks, Jahmir Dean, Cion Rawls, Jaymes Savage, Paulinda Nicholson
Back Row: Aniyah Shelton, Savannah Gaffney-Glenn, Chamera, Raja Bint-Idris, Destiny Gregg

8th Grade: Ashanti

Front Row: Tahir Bolton, Shy’erra Ladson, Jada M, Sherman Jones, Marayah Roher
Back Row: Randy Lowe, Omar Long, Mylz Ward, A, Miya Ingram, Ashley Smith, Sierra Lumsden
The Kush Nation’s “Spread the Love Food Drive”, to support the families in need during the Harvest Holiday, was a success! The Lower-School was able to collect enough non-perishable foods and canned goods to donate to families within our own Frankford Community, as well as support the efforts of the Campbell’s A.M.E. Soup Kitchen.

Pictured left, Nubia II Servant Leaders help the Kush Nation sort through the donations and package them for our local families and the A.M.E. Soup Kitchen.

GOOD JOB! GOOD JOB!

The Kongo nation kicked off the Harvest Holiday by hosting a Umoja Karumu Feast in Harambee Hall. The Umoja Karumum, or Unity Feast, is an African American celebration begun in 1971 by Dr. Edward Sims Jr.

Umoja Karamu~

It is held on the fourth Sunday in November, with the purpose to instill solidarity, values, and appreciation of heritage into African American families. The families of the Kongo Nation students were invited to the event, which took place on Wednesday afternoon, November 20, 2013. As with all events, we started with the pouring of libation. We learned a history lesson, while enjoying all of the delicious foods donated by the Kongo families. A great time was had by everyone!

Give Thanks!
Bats

Bats are strange, mice-like animals with soft, fur-covered bodies. Like birds, they have wings and are able to fly. Although many kinds of bats live in tropical climates, all bats living in temperate areas must either hibernate or migrate. Bats, however, are mammals of a large order called Chiroptera. They live in caves or man-made shelters. Bats usually eat insects, fruits and small land vertebrates. Bats may mate in the fall, but the fertilization does not take place until spring. Also like birds, bats fly by a type of locomotion called flapping flight. Lift and push are given as the wings are lowered forward and down. In hibernation, bats must find shelter with proper temperature. If the cave is too warm, metabolism speeds up, stored fat is used and the bat starves to death.

By Ade Hopson
Zulu Gray 4B

Ecosystems

One important thing about ecosystems is that all organisms need energy and matter. Energy and matter are necessary for all life processes of organisms, including growing, developing, reproducing and responding to their surroundings. All energy and matter that organisms require must be available within their ecosystems. Most energy comes from the sun. Plants and tiny organisms (protists and bacteria) capture the sun’s energy and transforms it into food energy (matter) for themselves and other organisms. These other organisms cannot make their own food, so they consume the tiny organisms and plants (or parts of the plants). The bacteria and fungi return nutrients to the soil, where the plants use them, and the cycling of energy and matter begins again. In addition, all organisms within an ecosystem interact with organisms and non-living things. Sometimes, these interactions are friendly and benefit both organisms. For example, bees benefit when they gather pollen and nectar from flowers. An interaction that benefits two organisms is the special relationship that exists when a type of fungus finds a home in, and on the roof of, a tree.

Another important idea is that changes in ecosystems can affect how ecosystems function. The desert ecosystem looks barren, but many special creatures that can survive only in those conditions live there. An entire ecosystem may cease to function properly if a group of living things are removed or new organisms are introduced.

By Tanae Faulks
Zulu Gray 4B

What a Gift!

Both Zulu and Songhai had the privilege of visiting The Academy of Natural Sciences. Their task was to find an animal, in any of the featured continents, and draw the detail of it. The goal was to depict its most natural environment and behavior. Fortunately, our scholars were able to go deeper than what their natural eyes saw. They were able to form connections between their texts and the world. Scholars identified how extinct dinosaurs could be direct derivatives of modern animals, based on the body shape and eating habits. Identifying adaptations that various animals had was inspiring food for thought. One exhibit, Outside-In, gave scholars an opportunity to touch live animals. This was the most fun for the scholars because they could tangibly experience what most had only ever seen or read about. This combination of exposure and experience will promote excellence!

Getting Their Game On!

Students in 4A created math board games based on fractions, multiplication, and division. Students enjoyed playing their self-created games with classmates as they reviewed the various math skills.
Lower School Students of the Month

I want to recognize brother Ahsan Jenkins. He is a student who has exhibited excellent behavior, ever since he came to Sankofa in kindergarten. He has been praised by all of his facilitators. He does anything that is asked of him, and he is someone who can always be looked upon to demonstrate those behaviors we expect to see from Sankofa scholars.

He is someone his family should be proud of, and Ahsan is a pleasure to have as a member of our Sankofa family.

Submitted by Brother Maurice Patterson
Lower School Dean

Yoruba 1- Chevas Clark, Yoruba 2-Tionya Robinson, 1A- Daesha Apollon, 1B- Olivia Bunner, 2A- Keon Kenner, 2B- Brian Teagle, 3A- Zaakirah Bowman, 3B- Shareef Griffin, 4A- Devon Edwards, Anthony Moorhead, 4B- Semya Willis, Art- Takay Williams, Music- Terrion Moore, Vita Saana- Jennifer Orteus, Resource room- Jaioni Vaughn, Reading specialist- Zariya Smith, Lower School Leader- Ahsan Jenkins
WELCOME TO THE READING CORNER!

PROMOTING THE LIBRARY

(PART 2)

I HAVE A RECOGNITION!

RECOGNIZE!

I would like to recognize and thank all of the parents of students in grades Kindergarten to Fourth grade who participated in the Library Card Drive! Remember that it will take two-three weeks to process library card applications!

Middle School Parents, it is your turn to support the Free Library of Philadelphia and your child’s literacy development! We will have library card applications available at the Kwanzaa Extravaganza on Wednesday, December 18th! Please come out, and be sure to fill out an application for your child.

READING IS POWER!

Reason for importance of libraries

Among parents who say libraries are important for their children, the percentage who say that each reason is a ‘major’, ‘minor’ or ‘not a reason’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Major reason</th>
<th>Minor reason</th>
<th>Not a reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The public library helps children develop a love of reading and books</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have access to information or use resources they can’t get at home</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public library is a safe space for kids to be</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pew Research Center Internet & American Life Project Library Services survey. October 15-November 10, 2012. N=1,252 Americans ages 16 and older. Total N for parents of children under age 18 = 584. N for parents who feel that access to public library is important for their children = 552. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish and on landline and cell phones.

Submission by: Sis. Katina Mackey-Green, Reading Specialist
Brother Kashief’s Fitness Class

This January, in the spirit of Kujichagulia, Brother Kashief will be posting the results from our Mighty Middle School’s fitness test. The Mighty Middle School fitness test was designed to test our students’ strength and endurance. The test consists of push-ups, sit-ups, planks, and sprints. Our fitness test leaders so far; scholar Steven Trader (68 push-ups in one minute), scholar Hruti Ra (61 sit-ups in one minute), and scholar Iyana Whiten held the plank position for 11 minutes and 4 seconds. The average adult cannot do a plank for more than a minute!!! The fitness test will be taken again near the end of the school year, to check for the improvements and new test records.

Facilitator Spotlight: Bro. Greg Simpson

Sankofa’s Cultural Art’s Department recognizes and welcomes Brother Gregory Simpson to our family. He will be engaging our scholars in the art of music. From the classroom setting to private lessons, scholars will be introduced to music theory, rhythms and notations, and vocal training in the form of a choir, featuring middle and lower school scholars.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Bro. Greg found his way to Philadelphia by way of Cheyney University. Bro. Greg has spent the past 10 years refining his piano and vocal skills through various performance outlets. We are excited to have him here at Sankofa, and look forward to a very creative and productive year!
Winter Sports Season is Here!

Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball and the Cheer Team

Winter sports season has officially started! This year we continued our tradition of building spirit and excitement around the launch of our sports season, by hosting Spirit Week, which ended with our annual Pep Rally. The Pep Rally was facilitated by Sis Jones and Mama Nikki, our Cheer Team coaches this year. At our Pep Rally, we introduced all of our winter sports student athletes. The teams we have this winter are Boys Junior Varsity Basketball, Boys Varsity Basketball, Girls Varsity Basketball, JV Cheer Team and Varsity Cheer Team. Schedules for all teams can be found on the Sankofa website (sfacs.us). The cheer competition will take place on December 21, 2013.

Senior Captain, Anthony Wright-Downing (pictured below) is the leading scorer in the Public League this year. He has 788 total career points coming into the season. Anthony has the chance to be the first player in school history to score over 1,000 points for his career.
**Building Intergenerational Communities of Scholarship, Culture, and Activism**

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### Upcoming Events: Calendar

**Dec 23, 2013—January 1, 2013**  
School Closed / Winter Break

**January 14, 2014**  
Parents’ Home and School Meeting—6:00 pm

**January 20, 2014**  
School Closed/Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday

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### Sankofa Freedom Academy Board of Trustees Meetings 2013—2014

Board Meetings are held every third Monday at 6:00 pm.  
Meeting dates are as follows:  
- December 18, 2013  
- January 27, 2014  
- February 24, 2014  
- March 17, 2014  
- April 21, 2014  
- May 19, 2014  
- June 16, 2014

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### Ashe’ - Spotlight on Nelson Mandela

#### His Day is Done

**A Tribute Poem for Nelson Mandela, By Maya Angelo**

Is done.  
The news came on the wings of a wind, reluctant to carry its burden.  
Nelson Mandela’s day is done.  
The news, expected and still unwelcome, reached us in the United States, and suddenly our world became somber.  
Our skies were leadened.

His day is done.  
We see you, South African people, standing speechless at the slamming of that final door through which no traveler returns.  
Our spirits reach out to you Bantu, Zulu, Xhosa, Boer.

We think of you and your son of Africa, your father, your one more wonder of the world.  
We send our souls to you, as you reflect upon your David, armed with a mere stone, facing down the mighty Goliath.  
Your man of strength, Gideon, emerging triumphant.

Although born into the brutal embrace of Apartheid, scarred by the savage atmosphere of racism, unjustly imprisoned in the bloody maws of South African dungeons.

Would the man survive! Could the man survive!

His answer strengthened men and women around the world.

In the Alamo, in San Antonio, Texas, on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, in Chicago’s Loop, in New Orleans’ Mardi Gras, in New York City’s Times Square, we watched, as the hope of Africa sprang through the prison’s doors.

His stupendous heart intact, his gargantuan will hale and hearty.

He had not been crippled by brutes, nor was his passion for the rights of human beings diminished by twenty-seven years of imprisonment.

Even here in America, we felt the cool, refreshing breeze of freedom.

When Nelson Mandela took the seat of Presidency in his country where, formerly, he was not even allowed to vote, we were enlarged by tears of pride, as we saw Nelson Mandela’s former prison guards invited, courteously, by him to watch from the front rows his inauguration.

We saw him accept the world’s award in Norway with the grace and gratitude of the Solon in Ancient Roman Courts, and the confidence of African Chiefs from ancient royal stools.

No sun outlasts its sunset, but it will rise again and bring the dawn.

Yes, Mandela’s day is done, yet we, his inheritors, will open the gates wider for reconciliation, and we will respond generously to the cries of Blacks and Whites, Asians, Hispanics, the poor who live piteously on the floor of our planet.

He has offered us understanding.

We will not withhold forgiveness, even from those who do not ask.  
Nelson Mandela’s day is done. We confess it in tearful voices, yet we lift our own to say thank you.

Thank you our Gideon, thank you our David, our great courageous man.

We will not forget you, we will not dishonor you, we will remember and be glad that you lived among us, that you taught us, and that you loved us all.