

HALLET FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMY

“STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE” PROGRAM — DENVER (CO) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

THE HALLETT TIMES

Volume 3

April 18, 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hallett Newspaper Club Interview With Ill Se7en

Civic Day at The Colorado State Capital/City and County Bldg

NEWSPAPER STAFF

- Modupe Y. Ajinaku
- Jaylen O. Mason
- Isaiah M. Penson
- AJ Rankin
- Sydni M. Skidmore
- Chester W. Stopa



The Hallett Newspaper Staff Interview Ill Se7en

On April 5th, 2016, the Hallett Newspaper Club interviewed ILL Se7en in the school’s library. ILL Se7en’s birth name is Michael Acuna.



He was first called L7 by the kids he used to play with when he was young. They called him that as a joke because he listened to jazz music. They called him a ‘square’.

He changed the meaning of his name. He entered poetry slams and mike battles and started winning. Then he updated his name to ILL Se7en. The ILL is short for

‘illuminated’ and the Se7en represents God

and a higher consciousness. ILL Se7en means light and a higher consciousness. ILL Se7en describes himself as a writer, poet, activist, rapper and educator.

“Why did you become an activist?” ILL responded “When I was young, I got arrested for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.” Instead of continuing to get into trouble, ILL changed and became an advocate for kids in his community, doing workshops. He educates kids about their rights and works with many different organizations.

ILL had friends who were killed or went to prison. He wants to prevent that from happening to other young people. That’s why he works with kids. ILL says he is a voice for people who can’t necessarily speak up for themselves.

A lot of the work ILL Se7en does is around kids, working to stop the ‘school to prison’ pipeline. This means kids who are exposed to many things at a young age that could set them up to go to prison. A lot of the work ILL Se7en does with kids to prevent this from happening. ILL Se7en educates kids through writing and history. He wants them to learn how to express their thoughts and feelings.

ILL’s favorite rappers are Rakhem and Naz. He was also influenced by Gil Scott Heron and Langston Hughes. ILL Se7en’s father got him involved in music. He learned to play the saxophone and the piano. When he played in the band in high school, he didn’t like the music selections. So he learned to make and produce his own music and beats. The he began writing poetry and the poetry became rap.

ILL is doing a 2 week workshop series with the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. He is teaching different techniques on how to write poetry and rap. The Denver Links and LaNapoule Art Foundation are responsible for bring ILL Se7en to our school. Hallett Fundamental is fortunate to have ILL here. On Friday, April 22, 2016, there will be a “Spoken Word” presentation. Hallett students will perform the poetry and rap they have been creating with ILL Se7en.

Hallett Fundamental
Academy

2950 Jasmine Street
Denver, CO 80207

Jason Sanders, Principal
Phone: 720-424-6070
Fax: 720-424-6095

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
<http://hallett.dpsk12.org/>

"CIVIC DAY" AT THE COLORADO STATE CAPITAL AND DENVER CITY AND COUNTY BLDG.

On April 18th, 2016, the entire Fifth Grade went on a field trip sponsored by the Denver Links. First we took a bus to the Colorado State Capitol Building. We watched as the House of Representatives did roll call and opened the day's business. The House of Representatives passed a bill to honor a former legislator, Paul Brown. Then State Representative Angela Williams recognized Hallett Fundamental Academy.

Next, the class walked a few short blocks to the City and County Building of Denver. We learned that the building took 27 years to build and holds many offices. The Mayor of Denver is Michael Hancock. He took time to speak with us. Mayor Hancock was a kindergarten and first grade student in our school building years ago.



We learned that there are three levels of government: the federal, the state and the city. As Mayor, Mr. Hancock leads the city government like the Governor and President Obama lead the state and federal governments. Laws for Denver are made by the City Council.

The Chamber for the City Council is a huge room. Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore talked with us. The Council is made up of people who represent all the citizens of Denver and make the laws. Pretending to be Council members, we conducted a mock debate about a proposed law that would require all Fifth Graders to take a special exam before going to middle school. Some of the council members were for the law and others were against it. The law did not pass.

"Stepping Into The Future"



It was an exciting day, learning about government.