

Who is CHEF Jasmine?



BY JAILA MABRY, KELLAR MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROBBINS, IL

Jasmine Stewart, 13, may be the winner of “MasterChef Jr.” season five, but truly she’s about being an inspiration for young African-American girls. She wants to be like former First Lady Michelle Obama, Beyoncé and Atlanta’s mayor Keshia Lance Bottoms. She added that she is also inspired by Oprah. “She is a self-made woman who has endured tough times and came out on top,” she said.

Stewart plans to use her love for cooking to get her the exposure she needs. She got started on her cooking adventure at a young age. Her parents were always in the kitchen and they



made “such amazing tasting things and I was like ok, I want to do this also,” Stewart said. She realized she had a true passion for cooking. Today some of her favorite recipes include her “Jamaican Poppers,” meatballs basted in jerk sauce, and “Caribbean Spice Salmon Filet.”



Being so young, Stewart said some have doubted her. “There are always naysayers who don’t think that your vision is actually something that can truly happen. They don’t take what you’re doing seriously, but honestly, I don’t even worry about that. I completely move on from those naysayers and those thoughts,” said Stewart. “It’s not even something I take into consideration.”

Along with being a chef, Stewart loves acting equally as much. She plans to pursue that, along with law, at Stanford University. She also loves books that have African-American girls who are doing positive things, and writing. This is why Stewart is passionate about having a voice. She feels like kids need to stand up. If you see something that you have an opinion on or something bad happens and you want to change it, then you should. That’s how she created her trademark #LetYourInnerGirlSlay.

Although she is an amazing chef, Stewart is still a normal girl. “Being a student and on ‘MasterChef Jr.’ can be a little stressful with having to manage school and extracurriculars, keeping my grades up, and other things outside of that,” she said.



But she is grateful to have a family that supports her and helps to manage it all.

As Stewart gets older, she said she sees herself in California because she loves the energy and creativity there. She has already visited Europe but longs to travel to Africa, Asia, and South America. Her perfect life includes her business coming to life and really growing, being an actress and chef in the entertainment industry, and meeting her role models.

***Weird fact: Jasmine Stewart likes pickles and vanilla ice cream.**