



# together Juntos



The quarterly newsletter of KIPP Massachusetts

FALL 2013

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALEB DOLAN

Dear Friends,

As we kick off a new year we want to share the amazing struggle and progress of our staff, students, and families. These are just a few of the results we want to celebrate:

- We opened our third school, KIPP Academy Boston (you'll read more about the amazing results there later)
- We had our strongest MCAS performance ever at KIPP Academy Lynn
- Our teacher and student retention continued to be among the strongest in KIPP
- KIPP Lynn teacher Shauna Mulligan was honored with one of ten national Harriet Ball Excellence in Teaching Awards
- 9th grade KIPPster Michelle Garcia was selected to share her personal story in front of over 3,000 KIPPsters at the KIPP National School Summit



Caleb Dolan with Michelle, class of 2017, and mom, Nilsen

In this issue of Juntos, we reconnect with three of our juniors from the class of 2015, each of whom had a unique and impactful summer experience that put them all one step further on the path to and through college (page 4). We explore new beginnings in looking at the exciting activities happening in our new KIPP Academy Boston location and our College Ambassador Program (both on page 2) which includes a member of the KIPP Lynn Class of 2012. Finally, we recommit to our goal of using data purposefully and often to guide the decisions we make to best serve our KIPPsters (page 5) the evidence of which can be seen in our 2013 MCAS scores which across the region were stronger than ever.

The beginning of the year is one of the most exciting times to visit our school. You can walk into any of our classrooms and witness academic and character growth happening. I encourage you to visit either of our locations—and to bring friends. Nothing in this letter can compare to witnessing our staff and students in action.

Visiting is just one way in which you can get involved in the lives of our KIPPsters. Our partnership with Gordon College (page 3) has allowed dozens of college students and professors to interact with our KIPPsters. Supporting similar partnerships with your alma mater or business can open up a world of possibilities for our students.



Shauna Mulligan with KALC Principal, Drea DeAngelo

Many thanks, Much love,

  
Caleb Dolan



90 High Rock Street  
Lynn, MA 01902  
781.598.1609



90 High Rock Street  
Lynn, MA 01902  
781.598.1609



384 Warren Street  
Boston, MA 02119  
617.500.6774



## KIPP Debuts National Alumni Ambassador Program



Social and Academic Integration has been identified by KIPP as one of the Five Critical Factors for College Completion; this process just became easier at 34 college campuses across the country where the KIPP College Ambassador Program has officially launched. The program is currently comprised of 38 ambassadors who are committed to building relationships, helping make sure new-to-campus KIPPsters are getting signed up for classes on time, are on top of FAFSA requirements, and understand the support systems available to them. Since the program was piloted last year, it has more than doubled from 14 students to 38 at present.

Among the 38 alumni selected for the ambassador program is Founding KIPP Academy Lynn Class of 2012 member Rachael Espailat (*left*) who is entering her sophomore year at Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. "One of my best friends here went to KIPP Delta in Mississippi. Having classmates who understand what it's like coming from a KIPP school was really helpful when I came to Loyola, since I was so far from home. As an ambassador, I hope to provide help and support to other KIPPsters that come to New Orleans," said Espailat. She, along with her fellow ambassadors had the opportunity to spend the day with Richard Barth, CEO of The KIPP Foundation (*see photo above*). "They are an unbelievable group of leaders," said Barth of the alumni chosen for the program.

## KIPP Boston Moves to Roxbury

In August, 78 new KIPP Academy Boston (KAB) 5th graders were introduced to an ethos of earning through their orientation to KIPP, or "KIPPnotizing", a series of seminars and exercises designed to teach the behaviors and expectations that strengthen character and prepare them for the rigor of the academic year ahead. At the end of their first week, the new KIPPsters were awarded with KIPP Academy Boston uniform shirts they had earned through KIPPnotizing while their fellow KIPPsters cheered them on.



KAB KIPPsters and parents with Mayoral candidate Bill Walczak

Though the Founding KAB Class of 2020 has progressed to the 6th grade, they too are adjusting this year as KIPP Academy Boston has moved from its former location in Jamaica Plain to 384 Warren St. in Lower Roxbury. The facility now offers more classrooms and space for KAB to expand as it grows to serve 648 students in grades K-8 by 2018. KAB is also expanding extracurricular activities offering art classes to both 5th and 6th graders this year. KIPPsters also have a Physical Education teacher for the first time, Ben Baudanza-Sturks.

Parents and families were welcome to tour the facilities and meet teachers at the KAB open house on August 27th. Nearly half of all KAB students had a family member present, speaking to the heavy emphasis KIPP places on family involvement being tied to student success. The community at large will be invited to visit the campus on October 10th. KAB has already received several visitors, including Boston Mayoral candidate Bill Walczak.



## Gordon College Partnership

For the seventh year, students from Gordon College, a small North Shore liberal arts school, are partnering with KIPP Academy Lynn Middle School (KAL). Though the aim of the partnership has remained the same (keeping college top-of-mind for our KIPPsters) the program is becoming more robust than ever this year.

The partnership is manifesting in several ways. First, seven to eight Gordon students will lead weekly, small-group discussions with 6th grade KIPPsters about topics ranging from “how do disagree respectfully” to “media literacy through analyzing Super Bowl commercials”. This volunteer effort is coordinated in conjunction with The Family Dinner Project, an organization that aims to restore the art of engaging conversation during mealtime. “We would really like to connect in conversation over food.” said Joanna Gallagher, who works with The Family Dinner Project. “Lunch time wouldn’t be a “feeding” but a meal and we would use these lunch times together as a chance to talk about things that matter to the KIPP students.” The students from Gordon are college freshmen enrolled in a service-learning seminar and will work with our students for an entire semester.

In addition to Gordon students visiting Lynn, KIPPsters will be invited to visit and tour of Gordon College, in Wenham, MA. Finally, KIPP is working with Gordon College’s “Wild Semester” outdoor program to promote environmental awareness and leadership skills within our KIPPsters.

### Do Now

#### KIPP by the Numbers

1. How many KIPP schools are there currently across the country?

A) 3 B) 20 C) 141 D) 2020

2. How many students does KIPP serve nationally?

A) 10,000 B) 20,000  
C) 35,000 D) 50,000

3. How many KIPPsters are served in KIPP:MA?

A) 500 B) 850 C) 1,000  
D) 30,000

4. How many teachers and staff currently work for KIPP?

A) 55 B) 109 C) 159 D) 306

5. What is the percentage of KIPP:MA alumni we will help to *and through college* by 2020?

A) 75% B) 79% C) 85%  
D) 100%



Answers: 1. C) 2. D) 3. B)  
4. C) 5. A)

## KALC Summer Experience Follow-Up

In our last edition of Juntos, we discussed the summer opportunities in which our class of 2015 would participate over summer. Below, three of our KIPPsters share their experiences:



**Anaidys Uribe (center)**  
Program: *Brown Summer Leadership Institute*  
Location: *Providence, Rhode Island*

“The program I attended was on Environmental Leadership. It was almost like going to camp—we slept in tents and had classes in a lodge. The “counselors” were Brown University teachers and alumni.

At first, I was excited because I knew we would be meeting new people and going kayaking but it was so much more than I ever expected. I learned so much about the different types of leadership; you can be a loud or charismatic leader, but you can also be a more reserved leader who motivates others by supporting them. You can be a leader focused on very broad tasks or very specific tasks.

There were a lot of other KIPP students there from around the country, since Brown has a partnership with KIPP, but plenty of non-KIPP students too. It was really like a Team & Family. We all supported each other, making sure we got our reading done for class and comforting each other if we were homesick. Looking at our classes, you would have thought it could have been a KIPP classroom. I got so close with everyone; we’re already planning reunions on the east coast and west coast.”

**Marvin Taveres**  
Program: *The Food Project*  
Location: *Lynn, Massachusetts*

“The Food Project is a nonprofit organization that hires youth from the North Shore and Greater Boston to teach them about agriculture and improve their leadership abilities. Before I started working for The Food Project, I thought it was going to be farming all day, every day, but at the end it was more fun than I thought it would be because they balanced out the work with fun team-building activities.

Besides farming, we also sold our crops at the farmers market in Lynn and prepared food at My Brother’s Table soup kitchen. One of my favorite times this summer was when my farm crew was peeling onions at My Brother’s Table and everyone was crying. It was funny but it was a bonding experience.

The biggest thing I took away from my experience was learning to know when to step up and step back, to be able to lead but also let other people shine instead of just myself. I want to continue with their D.I.R.T (the Dynamic Intelligent Responsible Teenager) program where they train us to give workshops about organic farming and lead tours.”



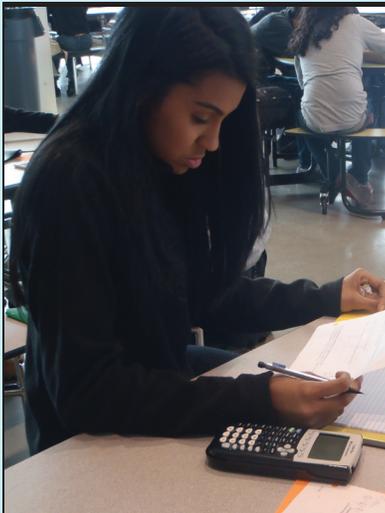
**Dulce Gonzales**  
Program: *Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy*  
Location: *Chicago, Illinois*

“When I started looking at summer programs, I knew I wanted to do something to help my leadership skills. When my high school advisor showed me the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership website, I knew I wanted to apply. I love soccer and they offer scholarships for students who aren’t able to pay the tuition.

I got a recommendation from my coach and wrote a personal essay about leadership and was accepted into the program. As a group, the girls in the program did a volunteer project where we baked cookies at the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago, where families of sick kids can stay in a home near the hospital where their kids are being treated.

Even though there was a big focus on sports and training at the program, we learned a lot about leadership, like how a good leader has confidence in what they are saying but is also able to back up their words. I’m hoping to use some of the skills I learned this year in high school because we’re able to start our own clubs this year. I’d like to create start multicultural club where our students can get together and share foods and their own cultural traditions.”

## Common Core: 101



The Common Core is a single national set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English/language arts and mathematics that are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter college or the workforce. The intent behind this standardization is to ensure a student deemed proficient in math by the state of Illinois is equally as competitive as a student deemed proficient in math by the state of Massachusetts.

Thus far, over 40 states, including Massachusetts, have adopted the Common Core. Until now, each state across the country created their own set of standards by which to measure a student's proficiency in core academic subjects such as math and science. In Massachusetts, students were assessed using the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). However, in the 2014/15 school year, the MCAS and other state-specific standardized tests will be replaced by an exam collectively produced by states that participate in the Common Core initiative, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers assessment (PARCC).

As public schools, KIPP Lynn and Boston schools are this year integrating elements of the Common core into their curricula in preparation for the full Common Core transition in the next academic year. "The Common Core State Standards present an exciting opportunity for teachers and leaders in KIPP:MA to collaborate with our fellow KIPP schools across the nation. The standards help define a higher bar for students and are aligned with our mission of ensuring students go to and through college," said Emily Rodriguez, KIPP:MA Director of Leadership Development.

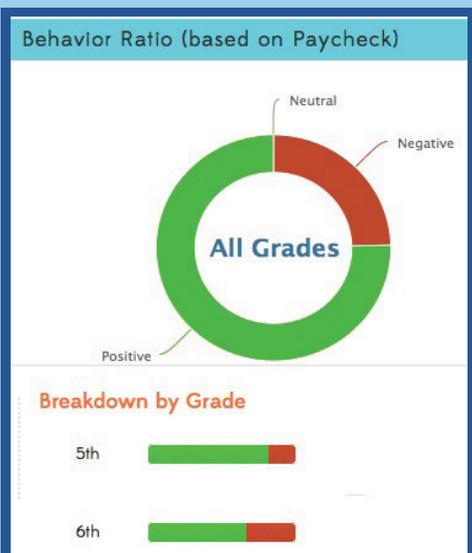
At the national level, Common Core implementation is particularly exciting for the KIPP network as, for the first time, we will be able to compare the performance of students in the majority of the 141 KIPP schools around the country. Best practices from the highest-performing schools can then be shared across the network to ensure KIPP is fulfilling our mission of ensuring our students progressing and achieving academically.

## KIPP:MA Uses New Data Tools to Keep Kids on Track To and Through

As KIPP has grown over the past two decades from 1 school in Texas to 141 schools in 20 states and Washington, D.C., we have learned that collecting and analyzing data is the single most impactful way to drive our decisions and strategy to scale a high-quality education. This year, using new data collection and analytics tools called Illuminate and SchoolRunner, teachers in the region will not only be able to track academic data, but also track behavior and parent communication.

"Data helps teachers understand how their students perform on different assessments and ultimately it helps us understand if we are preparing kids for college," said Stew Stout, KIPP:MA Director of Student Growth and Achievement. "On a tactical level, it helps us use desk time efficiently by individualizing instruction."

Stout is new to the KIPP:MA team this year and comes to KIPP from a company that develops a student data analytics platform for schools. Before that he was a Teach for America Corps Member in Washington, DC. "In addition to implementing new tools that will help teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders collect, analyze, and share data more effectively, we're analyzing data to evaluate year-over-year progress, measuring the reliability of our assessments, and tracking college readiness. It's a really exciting time to be here."



Above is a sampling of the character data tracking at KIPP Academy Boston



Do you or someone you know want to TEACH at KIPP?  
 Visit [www.kippma.org/teach](http://www.kippma.org/teach)



**In this issue...**

- Revisit the summer experiences of our KALC KIPPsters
- Learn about the Common Core
- Test your KIPP knowledge



KIPP Massachusetts  
 90 High Rock St.  
 Lynn, MA 01902



NONPROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 MAILED FROM ZIP 01902  
 PERMIT NO. 89

