

## Summer Programs

Consistent with our commitment to preparing our kids for success both in and out of the classroom, we ensure that every student at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate (KALC) participates in two summer enrichment experiences over the course of their high school years.

These programs range from academic coursework at rigorous colleges and universities, to internships with local for-and non-profit organizations, to physically demanding nature programs designed to build leadership and survival skills. The aim of the program is to engage students over the often idle summer months, as well as allow them to contextualize their education by framing it in real world applications. A secondary goal of the program is to expose students to the process of building a portfolio and applying to programs, where they face the possibility of a rejection, often for the first time. Such experiences help our students strengthen their **GRIT** and continue to pursue their goals despite temporary setbacks.

This summer, 70% of seniors and 87% of juniors completed a summer program. Students' experiences varied from studying at Georgetown, Brown, and Smith, devising business plans at Digitas and SAP, and hiking through Alaska with the National Outdoor Leadership School. We sat down with Divine Kamba, who attended the Smith College Summer Science and Engineering Program, to talk about her experience.

## 40 Under 40 Honoree: Caleb Dolan

The Boston Business Journal released its annual list for Boston's 40 Under 40 in September, an honor that recognizes Boston-area individuals for their leadership in making a major impact in industries such as technology, healthcare, media, politics, and nonprofits. Our very own Caleb Dolan, KIPP Massachusetts' Executive Director, stood out in a field of more than 350 nominees to receive the honor. Under Dolan's leadership, KIPP:MA has grown from a single school in Lynn serving 346 middle school students to a network of four schools serving 1,200 students in grades K-12 in Lynn and Boston. The region is on its way to its growth target of six schools serving more than 2,500 students in grades K-12.

"Caleb has an incredible focus on achieving the best life outcomes for his students, and he has never wavered from this goal in all the time I've known him," says Michael Kendall, Partner at Goodwin Procter and KIPP:MA Board Chair. "He makes decisions based solely on how they would affect the students we serve at KIPP:MA. Because of this, everything about KIPP:MA's work, from the daily operations of our schools to our growth plan, is done with kids in mind."

"It's an honor to be recognized among such an impressive lineup of Boston's great leaders and innovators. I am already incredibly lucky to spend my days with over one thousand students, families, and teachers who are working hard to improve their educational and life outcomes," remarked Dolan.

Please join us in congratulating Caleb.



Divine Kamba  
Class of 2016  
Smith College

**Describe the summer program in which you participated.**

The Smith College Summer Science and Engineering Program was a 4-week, all girls program. We took courses in science and engineering.

**Did you feel well prepared?**

The course on genetics was really challenging because I didn't know as much. Based off of what I learned in Biology, I had some background information. Compared to the other girls, they had classes on genetics and molecular biology, so it wasn't as difficult for them. The same goes for Energy but I was able to handle it and push myself and get the hang of the subject.

**How has your experience helped you now that you are back in school?**

It has helped me by making me more okay when there is a challenge in front of me. I also have notes prepared for when I do AP Biology. I have that information in case I need it.

## Meet Jiji: Blended Learning at KIPP Academy Boston Elementary (KABE)

Jiji is the common name for STMath, a highly engaging program (kids can't wait to play Jiji) that gradually builds foundational number sense and problem-solving skills. It fosters independence and **GRIT** as students are challenged to "play the gray" – which means selecting the level that has not yet been mastered (they turn green when they're mastered). The program *does not* give tips and tricks to kiddos when they fail – instead it scaffolds the question and then gradually increases the rigor as they get it right. The program *does* give real-time feedback – if the problem is not solved correctly, Jiji is unable to cross the screen due to an obstacle that is left behind by an inaccurate answer – accurate answers clear her path so she can proceed to the next problem.

STMath's main function at KABE is to facilitate engaging and effective independent practice while other students meet with the teacher for Common Core aligned small group math instruction. This allows teachers to use data to build groups that have similar needs and design their instruction accordingly. The combination of daily independent practice and targeted instruction will ensure that our kids are on track to make significant gains regardless of their baseline performance.



## Meet the Class of 2027



Jamaralise, Age 5



Katie, Age 5

**What is your favorite part of the school day?**

**Jamaralise:** Using computers because I like Jiji!

**Katie:** Choice time because I can play with my friends and have fun

**If you could have one super power, what would it be?**

**Jamaralise:** Frozen power!  
**Katie:** Candy power!

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**Jamaralise:** A teacher!  
**Katie:** A teenager!



## Class of 2015: Senior Retreat

The inaugural senior retreat took place in the Berkshires this August, with 75 founding seniors and 10 chaperones spending three days and two nights at the Berkshire Outdoor Center in Beckett, MA. The goal was to celebrate our founding seniors by coming together as a team to recognize their past achievements while maintaining focus on the challenges and successes that lie ahead in their final year. Through physically and mentally demanding obstacles such as high ropes courses, the students were asked to set their goals high enough that the risk of failure was not just possible, but probable, the goal being that the students would experience the often overlooked growth that occurs from failure to succeed and be more motivated to set higher goals for themselves as they prepare to apply for college. Each challenge provided an opportunity for the students to work as a team in an effort to create a more cohesive senior class as they enter their final year at KALC. The trip culminated in a group sharing exercise around the campfire, where the seniors were asked to toss a stick, representing one fear they'd like to release, into the fire. The students showed true **social intelligence**, respecting the stories of others while trusting their peers with their own. They approached the retreat with the appropriate mix of joy and reverence and have all but ensured the retreat will become a KIPP:MA tradition.



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## Spotlight on: Six Essential Questions

Helping our students climb the mountain *to and through* college and achieve their dreams is only possible if we know exactly how we are doing. Data helps us understand our true impact; what is working and what needs to be improved. Our Six Essential Questions provide a yardstick by which to measure our progress, keep us focused as we grow, and most important, help us to keep the promises we make to our students and their families. In this and each future edition of Juntos, we will focus on one of the Six Essential Questions by highlighting a program, person, or statistic that illustrates our commitment to staying on track. In this edition of Juntos, we are putting the spotlight on:



### Question 5: Are we building a sustainable people model?

Our teachers and staff are our greatest assets. In order to cultivate, support, and ultimately retain them from year to year, KIPP:MA places a strong emphasis on professional development, coaching and leadership training. To that aim, this year KIPP:MA welcomes our first three Teaching Fellows to KIPP Academy Boston Elementary. Our Teaching Fellows spend the year learning to become KIPP teachers through daily practice in the classroom, intensive coaching, exposure to models of excellent teaching, and professional development. Each Teaching Fellow partners with a Lead Classroom Teacher and is an integral part of the classroom from Day 1, setting and enforcing high expectations for students. Teaching Fellows gradually take on additional responsibility as the year progresses. Throughout the year, Fellows see high expectations and rigorous teaching in action by partnering with Lead Classroom Teachers, and they receive individual, targeted coaching and practice from an Instructional Coach. This year, our Fellows come from a variety of backgrounds – a recent college graduate with little formal teaching experience, a former high school teacher looking to move into the elementary world, and a kindergarten teacher from a community school who is looking to refine and strengthen her instructional practices. Since each Fellow receives individualized coaching, we are able to customize the program to capitalize on the Fellow's prior experiences and maximize his or her growth. Our ultimate goal is to expand and develop our Teaching Fellowship Program so that each of the elementary classrooms in our growing school has a Teaching Fellow, and each Teaching Fellow ends the year ready to lead kids *to and through* college.



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# JUNTOS/TOGETHER

FALL 2014

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF KIPP:MA



Photo courtesy of Melora Balsan

## A Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This fall marks a milestone in the growth of KIPP:MA, as we enter our 10<sup>th</sup> year of serving kids and families in Massachusetts. By the end of our 10<sup>th</sup> year, we will see our Class of 2015, the first KIPPsters to attend KIPP from grades 5-12, graduate from high school and begin their college careers on the path to living lives of independence and choice. Based on ACT scores and GPAs, **95%** of these students are projected to attend a 4-year college next fall and graduate at **5x** the national average. This year also marks the first year we are serving kindergarteners at KIPP Academy Boston Elementary. Seventy-two of our littlest KIPPsters, like Jamaralise and Katie on page 3, are learning the culture of KIPP and getting an early start on their journeys *to and through* college.

As we begin our new school year, we reflect upon the many successes and lessons learned last year. Among them,

- The median MCAS student growth percentile for the region exceeded the state average by 20%.
- Over 93% of our high school students achieved advanced and proficient on the MCAS in English Language Arts and Science.
- 68% of our alumni from the classes of '12 and '13 are persisting in college.

In celebration of our first year offering a full K-12 KIPP education, in this edition of Juntos we are focusing on the experiences of our oldest and youngest KIPPsters. This summer, 70% of the Class of 2015 spent their vacations in summer programs, building their resumes, character, and confidence in preparation for the often intimidating college application process. We also take a look at the inaugural KIPP:MA senior retreat, which forced our seniors out of their comfort zones both emotionally and physically and strengthened the bonds between them. We'll introduce you to JiJi, mascot of STMath, which the elementary school is using to supplement small group learning and build independence and **GRIT**. And because the work we do isn't successful unless we can sustain our brilliant and dedicated teachers, we introduce you to our new Teaching Fellows program, which will help us build a pipeline of excellent teachers and allow us to serve more of the kids who need us.

Many thanks, much love,

Caleb Dolan  
Executive Director, KIPP:MA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Lynn

October 8, 2014  
6-7pm  
Spanish for Beginners  
(open to community)

October 9, 2014  
6-7pm  
Families and KIPPsters Together (FAKT)  
meeting

### Boston

October 8, 2014  
6:30-7:45pm  
ESOL class  
(KAB/KABE parents only)

