A message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, our current administration is spending time and energy towards ending the DACA program and putting eleven million people under the threat of deportation including KIPPMA students, families, and staff. Here at KIPPMA we are asking all those who are willing to get involved to reach out to elected officials and to ask your personal network to do the same.

While DACA’s future is now in peril, KIPP’s commitment – to all of our students and families – is stronger than ever. We are committed to working relentlessly to alleviate the harmful impact of the decision to end DACA on our students, staff and alumni. KIPP’s college counseling, preparation and financial aid support services remain available to all KIPP students so they can continue their goal of graduating from college ready to join America’s workforce. We should and must do everything possible to make sure the hard-working young people covered under DACA have a path to citizenship because they contribute to our economy and make our communities better places to live.

KIPPMA continues to progress forward. This year’s graduates are finding their way at the various colleges they are attending (see list on page 3) and our alumni are embarking on new careers. We have opened up 2 new grades, a 3rd grade at KIPP Academy Boston Elementary and a 2nd grade at KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary this Fall, bringing the total number of students attending all five schools, to nearly 1,900. We are now the largest public charter school network in the Commonwealth.

Looking toward the new school year 2017-18, we are focused on growth in all areas, from increasing student achievement results across all grades to offering more programs that support character development and comprehensive teaching and leading professional development programs. We are also growing the number of career readiness programs we offer our students and alumni so they are prepared to join the workforce with hireable skills. This summer, Kingsley Metelus, KALC Class of 2017 and one of our Future Focus interns, worked in our communications department as a contributing writer. Read his articles on pages 3-6.

To support our efforts in advocating for the DACA program and the Dream Act of 2017 please contact kreynolds@kippma.org or call her at 781-656-4127 to schedule a meeting with our advocacy team or to schedule a visit at any one of our five schools.

Many thanks, much love,

Caleb Dolan,
Executive Director, KIPP Massachusetts

“Every step of the way, KIPPMA ‘Dreamers’ have worked hard, distinguished themselves in school, and given back to their communities. The decision to end DACA causes immense anxiety among our Dreamers and our entire KIPP community that cares about all our children, no matter their country of origin.” - Richard Barth CEO
KIPPMA Class of 2017 Student Profiles

Students share their college counseling experiences and hopes and dreams for the future.

Jenessa Rodriguez

“I have always loved learning and have a natural curiosity about the world and how the universe works. I want to be an engineer who designs our future. My plan at MIT is to study electrical mechanical engineering and my dream would be to continue STEM studies in graduate school, do more research, travel and then work as a NASA engineer.”

As a senior, Jenessa received almost a perfect score in science and math and in STEM on the ACT and took 7 AP classes over junior and senior year at KALC. She also took advantage of KIPP’s dual enrollment program with Salem State University and was able to experience the college atmosphere. She also attended MIT’s summer E2 program, a selective program that requires college application level essays, high grades, references and recommendations. She studied Astro and Aerodynamics over 14 hour days and loved it. Outside of academics she is a competitive gymnast and plans to continue athletics at MIT. Reflecting on her years at KALC she was most inspired and supported by four teachers in particular. Math and science teacher Mr. Knuittila, History teacher, taught, broadening her horizons and giving her confidence in herself, and Ms. Katz, AP Calculus teacher, spent extra hours outside of class helping her with the BC test. According to the NSF, Science & Engineering Indicators 2016, women make up half of the total U.S. college-educated workforce, but only 29% of the science and engineering workforce. Female scientists and engineers are concentrated in different occupations with relatively low shares in engineering (15%) and computer and mathematical sciences (25%). Hispanics, blacks, and American Indians/Alaska Natives make up a smaller share of the science and engineering workforce (11%) than their proportion in the general population (27% of U.S. working age population). Jenessa is determined to defy these odds.

Yesenia Bandoo

Since junior year, Yesenia always questioned her abilities as a student, especially when it came to the possibility of going to a 4-year institution. Yesenia and her family had no idea she had a learning disability until her junior year, and due to this, had to repeat the grade. Her grades were not a reflection of her ability as a student and that is exactly what she capitalized on when applying to Champlain, one of our partner schools. While she submitted all of her applications on time, she took a different approach with Champlain. She went on the applied students trip, along with 9 other students. She interviewed with the Director of admissions, as well as other members of the admissions staff. When all was said and done, and Champlain extended an offer of admission while also recognizing the academic support they would be able to provide her to help her navigate college life.

Deron Brown

“Growing up as a low-income student with ADHD didn’t mean I didn’t have the same chances as others, it meant I had to look at the world a different way and create my own path.”

Deron was accepted into 13 different schools, all giving him great scholarships. He is a perfect example of a student whose learning disability only fueled his passion to apply to as many schools as he could. He never shyed up to show Mr. Ochoa’s office and ask for help. He was never afraid to push back when he felt he was not being supported the way he needed to be supported. One of his biggest challenges was his personal statement and supplements. Writing didn’t come easy to Deron, but he pushed himself to come to office hours, writing workshops, and attend external support programs to prime himself for the college application process. He is, in many ways, someone to admire for his ability to advocate for his needs and the needs of his family. Even when he had gotten into some amazing schools, he continued to act as if he had no options. He met every single deadline, met every requirement, and never once complained about the amount of work he had to do. Even when his family did not want him to go as far away as Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, he created a pro and con list to support his decision.

Social Emotional Counseling at KIPP Academy Boston

The purpose of KIPP Academy Boston’s social emotional counseling program is to empower all of our students to reach their fullest potential by providing a comprehensive school counseling program to support their academic, social, and emotional development. As a department, the team works to create a safe environment for our students to identify their interests and abilities, enhance self-expression and control, practice conflict-resolution skills and develop other competencies that will strengthen our students’ capabilities. KIPP believes that collaboration between counselors, students, teachers, administrators, families, and the community will assist our students in becoming responsible and productive lifelong learners with independence and choice. We also believe in developing and maintaining culturally competent counselors to meet the various needs and protect the autonomy of the students and families with whom we serve.

We support our students through:

* Individual and Group counseling and an individualized treatment approach based on students’ strengths and needs
* Consistent communication and collaboration between the counseling staff, families, teachers, members of the community, and collateral contacts
* Seeking out professional development opportunities so that we continue to grow professionally and utilize the most effective treatment modalities in our work with students and families

KIPP believes that social/emotional support for students is inextricably linked to academic growth and achievement. Not only do we regularly monitor students’ social/emotional progress, but we also monitor their academic progress. We work with students and teachers to ensure that the skills learned in counseling support positive outcomes in the classroom. A typical day for counselors at our school consists of individual counseling and group counseling sessions. Additionally, much of our time is spent in the classrooms, providing feedback to both students and teachers, and monitoring for the transfer of skills learned and practiced in counseling to the classroom.

KIPP Academy Boston Teacher, Bryce Turner, Shares Words of Wisdom at 8th Grade Moving up Ceremony

So with your education as the wind at your sail
Your conscious as your compass
And your heart as your rudder
You must navigate the waters of this world
As Langston Hughes said,
Son, life for me ain’t been no crystal stair
Never apologize for knowing the education you deserve,
Never apologize for demanding the education you deserve,
Never hesitate to seek the education you deserve,
When and if you realize it isn’t coming to you.

Six Essential Questions: Are our Alumni climbing the mountain to and through?

Our Six Essential Questions provide a yardstick by which to measure our progress, keep us focused as we grow, and—most important—help us keep the promises we made to our students and their families.

Question 4: To meet our mission in preparing students to lead choice-filled lives, we follow the progress of our KIPP alumni, examining their rates of high school graduation, as well as college enrollment and college completion.

Below are some highlights from the Class of 2017 graduates.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 4</th>
<th>Highlight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Students are matriculating to a four year college or university</td>
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<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Students are matriculating to a two year college or university</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Students are involved in alternative pathways programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Students are projected to graduate from 4 year colleges, more than 5x the rate of their peers</td>
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Social Emotional Counseling at KIPP Academy Boston

- Individual and Group counseling
- Consistent communication and collaboration
- Seeking out professional development opportunities
- Individual and Group counseling and an individualized treatment approach
- Consistent communication and collaboration between the counseling staff, families, teachers, members of the community, and collateral contacts
- Seeking out professional development opportunities so that we continue to grow professionally and utilize the most effective treatment modalities in our work with students and families
Olivia Wright, Teaching Fellow by Kingsley Metelus, KALC Class of 2017

Olivia Wright, a KAL teacher and former KALC student, has had the opportunity to experience both sides of KIPP. Wright joined KIPP in 2004 and was able to experience the hard work, struggles, and joy that came along with being a KIPP student. As a KIPPster, Wright earned an education that challenged her in ways that other public schools could not. She also loved the endless support from her teachers, where they would constantly show how they cared deeply about her future. The accumulation of great experiences as a KIPPster and her drive to break the “low-income stereotype” brought her back to KIPP as a teacher. She explained “Right now there is a problem where students from inner city schools are looked at as failures, poor, uneducated, stuck where they are. I was one of these students in this stereotype. I want to help prove that inner city kids can achieve great things and that they are educated. I knew that working at KIPP as a teacher will help me prove this stereotype wrong.” As a teacher, she feels the same type of love and support she did as a KIPPster. She is supported by staff and coworkers daily by receiving feedback on areas of growth, and she and her coworkers work extremely hard to support their students’ futures. She also has the ability to relate to her students especially when students are struggling with similar rules. In the future, Wright wants to open up a KIPP School of her own, and she believes that working as a teacher can make this dream one step closer to being possible. Wright also attended Providence College, the same college I will be attending in the fall, so it is inspiring to see someone who has walked in similar steps as I did. KIPP has made an immense impact on Olivia’s life so she is dedicated to giving back to her students and making an impact on their lives too!

“At the KIPP School Leadership Program (KSLP) Summer Institute I was pushed as a leader and learned to harness strengths I didn’t even know I had to become more focused, concise, and direct. I learned to recognize that I can coach others in content I had no background in. I learned that my voice can break down barriers, while also building a place of belonging for others. More importantly, I have made so many lifelines. I am grateful for the people I met over the past four weeks. Here is to the next year and everything it will bring. I hope to be a school leader someday.”

-Jorge Ochoa, KALC Director of College Counseling attending summer professional development program in Chicago, IL

Kingsley Metelus, KALC Class of 2017, Indigo Poet

Congratulations to KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate’s Class of 2017

The Class of 2017 matriculated to:

KIPP National Partners
Bennington College
Brown University
Davidson College
Duke University
Lycoming College
Rosemont College
KIPP MA Regional Partners
Champlain College
Lesley University
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Bucknell University
Denison University
Elms College
Framingham State University
Howard University
Kean University
Lawrence University
MassBay Community College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Montserrat College of Art
New England College
North Shore Community College
Pine Manor College
Pitzer College
Providence College
Roxbury Community College
Salem State University
Tufts University
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Westfield State University

My Experience at KSS by Kingsley Metelus

In the 6th grade, I was able to attend the KSS Leadership Program in Texas, where a bunch of other 6th grade KIPPsters met together and learned important leadership skills for school and for life in general. This was the first time in years where I was able to travel to a different state on a plane, and I was very grateful for this experience. Fast forward 6 years later, and again I was able to attend KSS, but this time it was much different. Instead of a bunch of 6th graders, I was amongst almost 4,000 teachers and staff members, and I would be performing a group poem with the rest of my lovely team, the Indigo Society Poets in Las Vegas! When we were asked to attend and write a poem to the topic “more than ever”, we wanted to push ourselves to do something different. So we ended up having a 9 person group poem (something we thought would be too ridiculous to accomplish) and spoke about ways to make KIPP better, hence the last line being “be woke.” My experience at KSS was one to never forget. I was able to experience the beautiful city of Las Vegas, meet new staff members, teachers, and other students from different KIPP schools, and I was able to spend quality time with my group right before going off to college. The reason why KIPP is so great is because of the countless opportunities they give to students to do things they’ve never done before. At KSS, I was shown how big of a community KIPP is, and how supportive everyone is to each other. After performing, we were praised by many people and their support was great. Being apart of this KSS was an experience of a lifetime, and it seems as though all of the time, dedication, and hard work from Indigo Society paid off. I’m glad I had the opportunity to be apart of this, and I’m glad that the legacy of Indigo Society was broadcasted amongst the whole KIPP network.

Welcoming New Teachers and Staff!

Starting on July 26 through July 28, new teachers and staff returned to KIPP for orientation and to learn about our priorities, goals and growth plans for the coming year. On August 7 the entire staff from all 5 schools gathered in Lynn to kick off the new year and participate in a variety of professional development programs. Some of these programs included learning about the amazing work our student support team is doing to help our students with the highest needs grow, learning about why advocacy is important and how we can work with families to further support our students’ education, college counseling strategies and why college match matters, assessing strategies and why college match matters, assessing
Building Character Outside KIPPMA Classrooms

Fine Arts Town Halls Showcase Student Talent by Kingsley Metelus, Class of 2017

At the end of every semester, KALC brings the whole school together to sit and enjoy the amazing talents amongst our students. Some of these talents include the Glee Club, spoken word poetry, a rock band, and much more. At KIPP, we value the creativity of our students, and this allows them to broadcast their craft to a receptive audience. One of our newest groups of performers, led by Karen Sandrea O. and Michelle Uchendu, have shown great energy with their dances! You can watch their dance on the KIPPMA facebook page @kiphma. They started off in the beginning of the year, and they have grown ever since. One of the best parts about this group is that they self-choreographed their dance.

KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate Launches Football Team this Fall by Kingsley Metelus, Class of 2017

After years of wishing for a football team at KALC, the long and hard wait is finally over. This year, with the help of Anthony Grimaldal, James Rabbitt, Joseph Jacobo, Melvin Lark and Daniel O’Connor, KALC has a varsity football team and is competing in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference Division. "Our main goal is to help increase the positive culture in our school. We want to keep kids in the building and build men of character. Of course, we want to win every game but our goal is to compete hard and put an effort on the field that Lynn, our community and our families can be proud of. We want to be leading examples in the school and to stand out as ideal student athletes at KIPP" says Rabbi, KIPPMA Football Coach. The coaches are grateful for the many donations they received from members of the Lynn community to make this team possible. KALC will be competing against teams including Atlantis Charter School of Fall River, Minuteman, Nashoba, Mystic Valley, Chelsea, Greater Lowell, and more. Their schedule can be found online @ www.kippma.org. The team won their first game on Thursday, September 7, 28-0 against Atlantis Charter at Lynn Tech's Manning Field. Go team!

Family and Community Learning New Fall Classes

For a nearly 15 years in Lynn, our Family and Community Learning program has provided new resources not only for our students and families in Lynn and Boston but to families in the surrounding communities as well. The program has grown to serve over 300 families this year. The following community learning programs are taking place, free of charge thanks to generous donations from our supporters, this fall at our new KIPP Academy Boston school in Mattapan and on our High Rock campus in Lynn. Citizenship, ESL and Financial Literacy classes are taught on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. These classes offer various learning opportunities focused on building life skills, parenting support and civic engagement. All KIPP families and families from the surrounding community are invited to enroll on a drop-in basis. Call 781-808-3901, email familyandcommunitylearning@kiphma.org or go online at www.kippma.org to learn more.

KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate Indigo Society Poets Perform at KIPP School Summit (KSS)

Destany: My family told me that I had a voice, a loud one. Im boricua
They said my tongue was a whip of Puerto Rican culture.
King: A prayer before joumou and the cheers during the Haitian Revolution
Hannah: A lasso that gripped the untold a-stories of my ancestors.
Kristen: A Voice originating from the Chicanx movements
Jeannelle: My voice thums like dembow on concrete
Josh: cacophony of mis catrachos singing songs of revolution
Haja: softened voices to disguise anger
Akiel: Tongue tied tightly to trap truth.
Fernandes: One that speaks too loud after a history of silence.
One I never used
Kristen: The fear of consequence silenced me.
I noticed how classroom walls felt like shattered mirrors.
My mom told me to value my voice.
To sing our songs harmoniously.
Instead I’ve been handed broken records.
Mouth glued shut.
Then put in a display case.
Kippotism tamed my tongue.
And compliance became survival.
Haja: I grew up wildlife equipped with the sparks
To ignite flames.
But always get confused for being too angry
Being too offensive for the class.
So I stay silent.
My words whitened out.
And I wonder when they will believe that I’m burning.
Josh: The teacher asks if it’s acceptable to kill a mockingbird if it chirps too loud.
Have you ever heard the song of a mockingbird?
I grew up learning the melodies of another person’s song.
I grew up reading about the pain my people suffered.
Trapped between the branches of broken nests and strange fruit
King: I had my first flying lessons in the classroom.
I learned to flap my wings with the same delicacy of my pencil strides.
Learned how to chirp out facts before emotion.
The skies taught me history.
Taught me to make story lines out of white clouds.
Taught me that the ashes of our past only polluted the airs.

Poem by the Indigo Society

"And you tried to burn us, but we will not stop.
We will not beg for our acceptance.
We hold precedence over our existence.
We won’t cry anymore.
We are our own eulogies.
And you cannot silence me."

--Kingsley Metelus, Tope Sholola, Michelle Garcia and Daquri Payas of Indigo Society Poets

This was when I first learned about race.
About what it truly means to kill a mockingbird.
It’s to glorify Boo Radley and not mention Tom Robinson.
It to paint classrooms walls with white authors narrating black experience.
MLK without Malcolm X.
And we’re still wondering why the caged bird sings.
Hannah: We’re rooted in silence so one day we can have a voice.
Heads hands feet lips into assembly lines.
You can’t mass produce progression.
These rules be made to maintain power.
But don’t you know my blood be laced in revolution?
That my people be civil disobedience?
Fernandes: I’m the child of an illegal.
America never wanted me here in the first place.
I’ve been taught to just work hard and be nice.
That it will pay off in the end.
Akiel: I work hard and I been nice but the nice guys finish last.
These rules be made to maintain power.
And you are the power.
King: You only read from the book.
While we live this life.
Haja: You can’t be superhero at school and white feminist at the bar.
Fernandes: be part time activist
Akiel: Can’t rob Haddad your way through the hood.
Destany: Crochet our minds into thinking that suburbi be like inner city.
You can’t just work hard and be nice.
Jeannelle: Be quiet.
Be listening.
Be solice.
Be community.
Be more than statistic.
Be blueprints for revolution.
And more than ever,
Be woke.
KIPP Massachusetts
Attn: Laurie Kennedy
90 High Rock Street
Lynn, MA 01902

Donate today to help KIPP:MA support the students who need us most!

_____ $100  _____ $250  _____ $500  _____ $1,000  _____ Other

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City: ___________________________ State: ____________ Zip: _____________________
Phone #: __________________________________________________________________

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