



together Juntos

The quarterly newsletter of KIPP Massachusetts

KIPP:MA
MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 2011

FROM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALEB DOLAN

Dear Friends:

With Thanksgiving upon us and the winter holidays soon approaching, it is a time of reflection and giving thanks. I am thankful as I reflect upon the entire KIPP team & family and all that we have accomplished together.



Our newest group of 5th graders, like Lucheyla Celestino, are fully immersed in their new lives as KIPPsters. Students at KAL Collegiate, including Ricky D'Oleo, just finished their first official quarter, and our oldest alumni, including Chyna Hope and her teammates, are deep in the throes of college essay writing.

Climbing the mountain to and through college is hard for *anyone*. But when you are a founder, a pioneer, and in many cases the first in your family (and one of the first in your neighborhood) to go to college, it is even harder. And our KIPPsters are making it happen. I am reminded of the quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

*Do not go where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

For students and families from low-income communities like Lynn, the path has not traditionally led to, or through, college. Our students are changing that, forging new path for themselves and their younger counterparts. Thank you for joining us—and them—on this journey. Our teachers, kids, and families couldn't do it without your support.

Many Thanks. Much Love.

Caleb



JOIN US!

KAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SONGFEST **EVERY FRIDAY, 1:30PM—2:30PM**

Join us Fridays for song, dance, and inspiration. Open to everyone, no appointment needed. KAL Middle School Cafeteria, 25 Bessom Street, Lynn.

OPEN TOURS, KAL MIDDLE SCHOOL **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29 (8AM—9AM)** **TUESDAY DECEMBER 13 (8AM—9AM)**

Join us for pre-scheduled open tours. All are welcome, bring friends! Please RSVP to wgrace@kipplynn.org.

OPEN TOUR: NEW BUILDING SITE **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10:00AM**

Join us for an open tour of the new building and construction site! Due to safety constraints, space is limited and RSVPs are necessary. To RSVP, contact wgrace@kipplynn.org.

KIPP FAMILY FORUM **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 6PM**

Join the KAL Middle School leadership team for a family forum where parents and community members can ask questions and discuss issues important to them and their children.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE NIGHT **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, TIME TBA**

Join us as our middle school KIPPsters share their talents from singing to dancing to Tae Kwon Do. For more information, contact malvarez@kipplynn.org.

SPIRIT WEEK AT KAL COLLEGIATE **JANUARY 9—13**

20 Wheeler Street, 2nd Floor—all are welcome to stop by to soak up some Panther spirit!

Please join us for any and all of the above events, or whenever school is in session. Please note that there will be no school November 21–25 (Thanksgiving break) and December 21–January 3 (Winter Break).

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TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT WWW.KIPPLYNN.ORG/DONATE

NEWS & EVENT RECAP



Hispanic Heritage Celebration: On October 21st, KIPPsters, teachers, families, and community members came together for a Hispanic Heritage celebration. The event, spearheaded by Director of Community Programs Hugo Carvajal, was a testament to the warmth, diversity, and enthusiasm of the KIPP Team & Family. Performances included a student dance group, individual KIPPsters who wrote and performed original songs and poems, a Latin Dance group, and a band led by one of our Adult Education students. Said Founder and Co-Executive Director Josh Zoia of the evening, *"I was beyond proud that we continue to celebrate the richness of our students, families and communities. The room was packed, the food abundant, the music flowing, the performances inspirational, and the*

KIPP Student Leadership Summit: Two of our 6th grade KIPPsters—cousins Jessica De Los Santos and Jonathan Mejia—were selected to participate in this year's 8th annual KIPP Student Leadership Summit (SLS) at a campground in Temple, Georgia. Jessica and Jonathan were two of more than 100 sixth graders from KIPP schools across the nation came together for two full days of leadership development and teamwork activities. Said Jessica, *"We learned that you can be a positive leader or a negative leader, and that you can show leadership even if you aren't wearing a leadership badge."* Both gave the experience an enthusiastic thumbs up, and are working to apply what they learned at the retreat as leaders here at KAL.



8th Grade Medieval Fair: If you walk into the middle school cafeteria, you may not expect to see a peasant begging for food, knights in a jousting match, or a noble king perched on his throne, but on October 21st, this is exactly what you would have seen. This was not ancient Rome, but rather, the 2nd Annual Medieval Fair, put on by the 8th grade as part of their Social Studies curriculum. Complete with makeup, costumes, and accents, the students remained in character, telling visitors about the years of training they completed to become knights, or about the hard life of a peasant. Said one 8th grade student, *"It was one of the most creative projects I've ever done."*

High School Trips: Project Adventure and College Tours:

As the KIPPsters and teachers at KAL Collegiate prepared to wrap up their first quarter ever at the school, they celebrated with two trips: a ropes course at Project Adventure, and college tours of Suffolk University, Emmanuel College, and Boston University. Said one teacher, *"I was so impressed by our kids' courage and grit in getting through the ropes course and working together."* Said another, *"I loved seeing their faces light up when they talked about what they saw during the college tours."* One student reflected, *"It hit me today that I'm going to college pretty soon in my life and how hard I have to work to get into college and actually go through and make the best of it. Thank you for*



DO NOW...



One element that is present in every hour-long lesson at KIPP is called the "Do Now" - an activity or short set of questions intended as a warm-up for the lesson. In every issue of Juntos, we will share a few fun "Do Now" questions to test your KIPP knowledge. Answers are upside down in the bottom corner. Good Luck!

1. When KIPPsters eat lunch together in the cafeteria, the noise-level expectation is:

- a) Silence b) Library Voice c) Classy Restaurant Voice d) Presenter's Voice e) Fenway Voice

2. We often remind KIPPsters to "use their PETSYS." What does "PESY" stand for?

- a) Pick up, Everything is Earned, Try your hardest, Smile, "Yes" attitude
b) Positive attitude, Eagerness, Tenacity, Strength, Yellow and Red
c) Please, Excuse Me, Thank You, Sorry, You're Welcome

3. How many KIPP schools are there across the country?

- a) 109
b) 59
c) 19

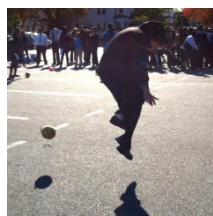
1. c) 2. c) 3. a)



KIPP ACADEMY LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL
25 Bessom Street, Lynn · 781-592-1609 · www.kipplynn.org
Principal: Anna Breen

Founded: 2004
Grades: 5–8
of Students: 376

Community. Enthusiasm. Excellence. Perseverance.



STUDENT SHOUTOUT—ENTHUSIASM

For many students, KIPP is so different from their old school that it takes months (sometimes years) to adjust. But *some* KIPPsters simply hit the ground running; 5th grader Lucheyla Celestino is one of those students. After less than three months at KIPP, she speaks with an eloquence you might hear from an 8th grader, combined with the exuberance & boundless energy of a ten year old. She is polite, poised, and passionate, and her smile lights up the room. Already, she is a true KIPPster.

What is your favorite subject? I love math because it can be anywhere. You can apply it to so many things if you put your imagination to it. I also love to read. Our chant, “Read Baby Read” gets me excited & reminds me why reading is so important.

What advice would you give to next year’s new KIPPsters? I’d tell them, “Don’t worry, you’ll do great. The teachers care about you a lot, and you’ll really have fun. There are strategies so you don’t get lost, and even if you do, the teachers will help you until you get it.”

What do you think about all of the hard work and long hours at KIPP? Some kids [who don’t go to KIPP] make fun of me that I have such long hours, but I just say, “You go to school for only 6 hours a day. I go to school for 10 hours a day & I’m going to KIPP all the way through high school. Which one of us is going to go to college?” It’s hard work, but it’s a great opportunity.

LUCHEYLA CELESTINO

GRADE & CLASS
5th Grade,
Endicott

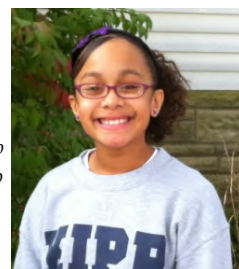
Grades are named for the year they will go to college; classes are also named after colleges.

FAMILY & PETS

Lives at home with her mom, dad, brothers, a pet Chihuahua, and 2 parrots; she is one of 11 kids (!)

CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Wants to be a pastry chef



TEACHER SHOUTOUT—COMMUNITY

Now in his 8th year teaching, Julian Saavedra’s excitement for history and for learning is contagious. When tour guides bring visitors to observe classrooms, his class is almost always the one where visitors ask to stay just a little longer to hear the rest of the lesson. His commitment to the KIPP community is equally contagious; when he is not teaching, he is running a school-wide recess basketball league, participating in a community service project with the Elves of Change, or teaching an evening English class to KIPP parents. Having grown up in a community in many ways similar to Lynn, Saavedra says that education changed his life; he is certainly “paying it forward” at KIPP.

What do you like most about teaching at KIPP? I have never been around a group of adults who are so dynamic and passionate. “Proving the possible” is something you see every day here.

Did you have any teachers who made a difference for you? Definitely — there were two (they were history teachers actually!). One really took the extra time to build a relationship with me outside the classroom, and the other one had traveled the world and always brought elements of her travels into her teaching. They both taught me how important it is to make connections with kids on multiple levels, and how much those connections *matter*. I became a teacher because education gave me opportunities I would not have had otherwise. I want to continue that trend for our kids.

You taught English in China for a year. What was that like? Teaching in China was an eye opening experience. The kids there are highly motivated and have the hunger to do *whatever it takes*. It really made me want to do what I can to motivate *our* kids. I try to bring my own life experiences into my teaching, and I try to make it fun. There is no reason that getting a good education can’t be the time of their lives.

JULIAN SAAVEDRA

SUBJECT
8th Grade Social Studies

YEARS TEACHING

In his 8th year teaching,
3rd year at KIPP

HOMETOWN

Waterbury, CT

COLLEGE AND MAJOR

Fairfield University, History & Education





KIPP ACADEMY LYNN COLLEGIATE
 20 Wheeler Street, Lynn · 781-581-8493 · www.kipplynn.org
 Principal: Drea DeAngelo

Founded: 2011
Grades: 9 (to 9-12)
of Students: 96

Courage. Excellence. Grit. Team & Family. Zest.



SHAUNA MULLIGAN

TITLE

9th Grade English Teacher

HOMETOWN

Lebanon, Maine

YEARS TEACHING

7th year teaching, 5th year at KIPP
 (taught 4 years of 7th grade English at KAL)

COLLEGE & MAJOR

University of Vermont, Secondary Education



TEACHER SHOUTOUT: ZEST

Approach any KIPPster at recess and ask them what they think of Ms. Shauna Mulligan, and you quickly understand why she is so widely beloved by her students. One student summed up the opinions of many: *"She's the most enthusiastic and interactive teacher I know. She finds a way to get everyone excited about the books, and she teaches to every level, not just her star students."* From building a wooden stage in the corner of her classroom for acting out plays, to introducing her students to "Who's on First" to practice public speaking, she is the embodiment of "Zest" - for language, literature & life.

What drew you to KIPP? So many great charter schools have the structure and discipline like KIPP, but KIPP is *joyful*. The "joy factor" is everywhere here. Also,

as a teacher, there's a great balance of feeling challenged & supported. Everyone is always working to improve.

How did your high school experience affect you as a teacher? There weren't really high expectations at my high school. It was "sink or swim." But I did have one English teacher who was really engaging & excited about literature. She helped me see that there was a larger point in the books and the characters, and if I paid attention, they could really affect my life. I try to do the same for my students today. For me, teaching is about helping kids make the choices they *want* to in life.

What is your favorite book to teach? In 7th grade, we read *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. For many of the kids it's their first time reading real literature. I love it because it really gets them to think. It's fun to watch—they grow up so much in the process, it's like they grow up with the characters as they're reading the book.

RICKY D'OLEO

GRADE

9th Grade, KAL Collegiate

FAMILY

Lives at home with his mom & younger brother (a 7th grader at KAL). Also has an older brother.

INTERESTS

Poetry, Writing, Music, Dance



STUDENT SHOUTOUT: COURAGE

Ricky D'Oleo, a member of the founding 9th grade class at KAL Collegiate, is no stranger to hard work; he came to the U.S. from Puerto Rico in the 4th grade, learned English from scratch, and repeated 5th grade in order to come to KIPP, where he went on to earn all four End-Of-Year trips. When Ricky graduated from KAL, he went to Lynn English High School. But without the daily support system he was used to at KIPP, Ricky struggled, and would have had to attend summer school in order to move on to 10th grade. Instead, he chose to repeat 9th grade at the new KAL Collegiate High School. It was a decision that took courage and grit, and one he doesn't regret. On being a Founder at the high school, Ricky says, *"We're creating a legacy for the kids who come behind us. It's a whole lot of responsibility but we're ready for it."*

What made you decide to come back to KIPP? I thought I'd be fine in public school without the structure of KIPP, but I wasn't. My biggest regret is not looking at other high school options [*KAL Collegiate had not yet opened*]. I decided to come back to KIPP because I realized that Lynn English may have seemed good in the moment, but it's not the best thing for my future.

You repeated a grade—twice—in order to come to KIPP. That takes a lot of courage. I look back on the sacrifices I made to stay back in 5th grade so I could learn, and I don't think I realized how big that was. Now that I decided to repeat a grade *again* so I can do what I need to do to succeed, I'm proud of myself. I feel like I've grown up a lot.

What do you see for your future? I really want to go to UCLA. Every night before I sit down to do my homework, I look it up on YouTube for inspiration. It motivates me to do what I need to do to get there.



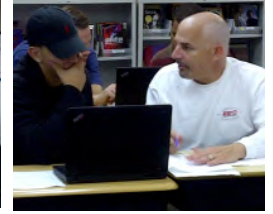
KIPP MASSACHUSETTS

25 Bessom Street, Lynn · 781-592-1937 · www.kipplynn.org

Co-Executive Directors: Caleb Dolan and Josh Zoia

Founded:	2004
Grades:	5—9
# of Students:	472

Community. Courage. Enthusiasm. Excellence. Grit. Perseverance. Team & Family. Zest.



VOLUNTEER SHOUTOUT: TEAM & FAMILY—KIPP THROUGH COLLEGE WRITING COACHES

With our oldest class of alumni currently in the process of applying to college, they will soon be moving into their college dorms. But there is one significant detail standing between them and move-in day: the college essay. Since September, a group of seven dedicated volunteer writing coaches have been holding Saturday meetings with some of our alumni, providing one-on-one attention and writing guidance. Spearheaded by long-time KIPP supporter and board member Barbara Goldman and KIPP Through College Director Alexis Rosado, the pilot program was meant to help volunteers from the community further engage with KIPP while providing valuable coaching to alumni. Says Rosado, *"This is the first year we've done this program and the volunteer coaches have been amazing. They show up every Saturday with a smile on their faces, ready to work. They've helped our alumni improve their writing and provided them with the individual attention that is so critical for their success."*

The seven volunteers—Becky Shepard, Jenn & Ray Billings, Rebecca Besthoff, Bob Goldman, John Webber, and Deahn Leblang—hail from a wide variety of industries, from teaching to higher education to technology marketing to law. Their generosity and passion for helping our oldest students *climb the mountain to and through college* makes them true members of the KIPP Team & Family. When our alumni open their college acceptance letters this spring, they will surely call their writing coaches to share the good news.



CHYNA HOPE

SCHOOL & GRADE
Cristo Rey Boston,
12th grade

FAMILY

Only child, lives at home with her mom

EXTRACURRICULARS

Writing, poetry, music, ITM (step team in Lynn)



ALUMNI SHOUTOUT: PERSERVERANCE

It's been a long time since Chyna Hope first took a leap of faith as a new 6th grader in KAL's original founding class. Today she is a high school senior, doing what so many kids in her grade do: writing college essays and starting the application process. She loves to write, sing, and rap, and she even got the chance to share her skills with an appearance on BET's TV Show, *106 & Park*. Her dream is to make a career out of music and writing, but even if that doesn't happen, she knows she will use her writing in her career. She has the fire and determination to pursue and achieve her dreams, the pragmatism to know it won't be easy, and the perseverance to do it anyway. Says Chyna, *"People set low standards for minorities. It's important that I succeed so I can show that everybody can be successful no matter where you come from."*

How do you think your time at KIPP changed you? My first few years there were tough, and I didn't earn the end-of-year trip until I was in 8th grade, but I feel like I'm more mature now than a lot of my peers because of KIPP. It definitely made me stronger. I don't think I appreciated it as much when I was here, but I really do now. KIPP is like family.

What was that like to share your music on television? It was definitely out of my comfort zone, but KIPP really prepared me for that. At KIPP you're pushed outside your comfort zone every single day. Being at KIPP taught me not to be afraid of doing what I want to do with my life. I really learned to love writing in Ms. Breen's English class and I've been doing it ever since.

What has it been like to work with the KIPP Through College Writing Coaches? It's been really great working with my writing coach (volunteer Rebecca Besthoff). It's so much more intimate than the type of coaching I get at my school, where we all sit in a room and quietly work and raise our hands if we have a question. Ms. Besthoff and I have gotten to know each other and she has been giving me a lot of really good feedback on how to make my writing more powerful.

KIPP Massachusetts
25 Bessom Street
Lynn, MA 01902



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Happy Thanksgiving from KIPP.



I give thanks to my mom for working so hard for me and my brother

I promise to my community to be a nice teammate
one to say thank you if they are doing something nice

I'm thankful for my mom's love |||||

